MADRAS INFORMATION

MAIN FEATURES

(1) Editorial
(2) Press Notes
(3) Tuberculosis and how to combat it
(4) Food front
(5) Prohibition
(6) Co-operative movement
(7) Education
(8) Industrial planning
(9) Public Health problems
(10) Labour conditions in the Province

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Annual	Rs. 6
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Madras Information

Published every fortnight by the Director of Information and Publicity,
Fort St. George.

Vol. I, No. 16 | "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" | July 12, 1947

Editorial

WORKING OF PROHIBITION SCHEME

PROHIBITION has been in vogue in eight districts in the province for nine months now. The latest review of the working of the scheme, which is for the month of April, has some notable features to record. Among these must be included the decrease in the number of cases of illicit distillation, the steps taken by the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam to remove toddy shops on the border to three miles inside the State, the steady progress of ameliorative work, the progressively beneficial work turned out by the Gramasanghams and Taluk and District Associations, and the progress of the thrift movement among ex-addicts.

Greater Efforts Needed

THE significance of the improvement in some of the directions referred to must be considered in the proper perspective in order to arrive at a correct conclusion regarding the success or otherwise of the prohibition scheme. Those who deride the scheme as a "socio-political experiment' draw support for their derision from the argument that liquor drinking being the traditional and longpractised habit of a large number of people, cannot be wholly exterminated and they do not regard it as a vice against which a regular fight has to be waged. If what is regarded as a vice by common consent is a longstanding one and a large number of people are addicted to it for centuries, it does not mean that efforts to eradicate it must be abandoned or should not be made at all. On the other hand it only points to the need for more strenuous, systamatic and sustained endeavours to achieve the desired result. And the very fact that it is an evil which has stuck roots renders its eradication a particularly strenuous task. It may be that what is being done in that direction is not adequate to meet the demands of the situation and that greater and more zealous work by everyone, official as well as non-official, is indicated, if better or more spectacular results are to be achieved. That is only all the more reason why everyone should give his goodwill and co-operation ungrudgingly and adequately, and why the spirit of self-improvement should be systematically inculcated into the people who had been the victims of the drink evil.

No Cause for Discouragement

THE results that have been achieved in the prohibition districts during the last nine months do not give room for disheartenment or discouragement. These months of prohibition enforcement have also revealed that there are certain powerful forces and impediments in the way which must be removed and certain requirements which will have to be fulfilled. For example, it has been stated that some influential persons in the urban areas in the prohibition districts like Coimbatore are displaying immense ingenuity in pursuance of their boot-legging activities and are circumventing prohibition regulations for procurement of liquor. While even educated and influential persons, who ought to know better, are allegedly resorting to underhand methods for the satisfaction of a craving, one cannot probably be overcensorious of the lapses of the ordinary people or plead them as serious arguments against the prohibition policy. It is of course essential that the offenders must be shown no quarter. The cases of illicit distillation reported from the prohibition districts are to be deplored, but they do not justify the conclusion that prohibition as a policy is a failure. On the other hand the progress of the thrift movement and the increasing proneness on the part of the ex-addicts to participate actively in the measures for amelioration devised by the Government show that money which was being previously wasted in purchasing health-destroying liquor is now being expended in more health-giving and healthy ways. The ameliorative and thrift campaign has to strike deeper roots in order that the reform of the ex-addicts may be complete and full.

Public Co-operation Essential

SPEEDIER and more beneficial response to the ameliorative efforts will be possible with the greater and more purposeful co-operation of the educated and enlightened sections of the population. The gramasanghams and taluk associations have a special responsibility in this respect and members must regard their association with these bodies as a matter of trust and should discharge their duties in a spirit of service.

THE point was made by a newspaper in the course of an editorial on the prohibition review for April that the ameliorative and recreational measures sponsored by the Government do not merit special commendation, as they should have been taken by the Government earlier and throughout the province. It may be accepted that these measures could have been taken earlier, as part of a general village uplift movement. But that they are being undertaken by the Government in the prohibition districts shows that in those districts their need is felt in a greater and more urgent measure in order to provide effective counter-attraction to a debilitating addiction.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Control over the price of copra

The Government have removed with effect from the 28th June the control over the prices of copra and coconut oil and also the ban on the movement of coconuts, copra and coconut oil from Madras Province to any place in India. No permits will therefore be necessary for such movements hereafter.

The ban on the export of coconuts and its products to places outside India, however, continues.

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Cost of Living Index

The following table shows the cost of living index numbers for low-paid employees at the different mufassal centres in the Province of Madras for the month of May 1947 :—

Vizagapatam	272·6
Ellore	339·0
Bellary	277·7
Cuddalore	280·3
Trichinopoly	290·2
Madura	285·7
Coimbatore	305·1
Calicut	325·7

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No New Bakeries

As the stock position of maida has further deteriorated, it has been ordered that until further orders applications from ex-servicemen for starting new bakeries should not be entertained even if the applicants were bakers before they entered the army, and that no maida or sugar should be allotted to start new bakeries for the manufacture of bread, biscuits, cakes, buns, etc.

Classification of Paddy

It has been represented to the Government that the classification of all varieties of short term paddy should be raised from third sort to second sort and that such a measure would induce producers to expand the cultivation of the short term paddy crop which will come to harvest before October and will thus help to tide over the difficult food situation. They have accepted this suggestion and have accordingly issued orders directing that all varieties of short term paddy which are now classified as third sort shall be paid for at second sort rates till the end of November 1947. The prices that will be paid after November 1947 will depend upon the price policy to be followed during the next crop year 1947–48, an announcement about which will be made in due course.

The Government trust producers to take full advantage of this concession by cultivating the maximum extent of land possible with short term paddy crop immediately so that they can get the better prices for the produce before the end of November 1947.

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Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Societies

The Government are anxious to prevent the liquidation of the producers'-*cum*-consumers' co-operative societies. They desire that the large sums raised as share capital for the producers'-*cum*-consumers' co-operative societies in the Circar districts should be conserved for the co-operative movement and that measures should be devised for putting the societies to the best use possible. In their Press Note, dated 23rd April 1947, the Government announced their intention of appointing a special agency to examine the future of the producers'-*cum*-consumers' societies in the four Circar districts. To give effect to this intention, the Government have appointed a committee with Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, M.L.A. (Central), as the Chairman and the following gentlemen as members :—

(1) Sri A. Govindacharyalu, M.L.C., Ellore, West Godavari district.

(2) Sri K. Brahmananda Reddy, M.L.A., Narasaraopet, Guntur district.

(3) Sri N. Satyanarayana of Alamuru, East Godavari district.

(4) Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, M.L.A., Bezwada, Kistna district.

(5) Sri D. S. Sastri, Agent, Central Bank of India, Madras.

(6) N. S. Arunachalam, Esq., O.B.E., I.C.S., Registrar of Co-operative Societies (Official Member).

The Government have been desirous of securing the assistance of Sri T. Prakasam as one of the members of the Committee. But they have had no reply from him though an invitation was issued on 6th June 1947. As there has been some delay already in the matter, the Government are issuing orders appointing the Committee. But they hope that Mr. T. Prakasam will join the Committee and give it the benefit of his experience.

The Government have sanctioned the opening of branches of the Indian Women's Civic Corps at Bellary, Ootacamund and Coonoor. Necessary staff for these branches has also been sanctioned.

Rationing and Distribution of Mill Cloth.

The introduction of the full rationing scheme in mufassal districts is in progress. Cloth ration cards have been distributed in a fairly large number of municipalities, towns and villages with a population of 10,000 and above.

One of the immediate results of the introduction of the rationing scheme has been the accumulation of unattractive varieties of cloth with retail dealers. It has been noticed that consumers are inclined to postpone their purchases in anticipation of supplies of finer varieties of cloth reaching the retailers later on in the year. Proposals for avoiding these undesirable effects are under the consideration of the Government.

The accumulation of stocks with the retailers is leading to other complications in the procurement and distribution of mill cloth. Retailers having stocks in their hands are reluctant to purchase further quotas allotted to them from importing dealers, who in their turn are not able to realize the cost of the goods imported by them to help them in making investments for purchasing their quotas from the Bombay Surplus Area. Special steps have been taken to clear up consignments which have accumulated in a few districts of the Province.

A Newspaper Report corrected

With reference to the report in '*The Indian Express*' dated 17th June 1947, stating that "the Madras Government are considering the constitution of a committee to go into the question of decontrolling yarn and cloth," the Government wish to say that they have no such proposal under consideration. The Government wish that the '*Indian Express*' had verified the authenticity of the report before giving publicity to the same.

Effective Rationing of Mill Cloth

With a view to preventing frauds in the working of the schemes of Mill Cloth Rationing, the Government prescribed a number of precautions in their Order, dated 17th April 1947. One of these was that no cloth should be sold to a customer without production of his firewood ration card or food ration card. In case he did not possess either of these he had to produce a certificate to that effect from a competent authority named by the Collector. Supply of cloth against ration cards containing corrections or overwritings or erasures was also prohibited as another precautionary measure. If a card-holder found that his ration card contained erasures or over-writings or corrections he had to return it to the Assistant Textile Commissioner of the district for its replacement by a properly drawn up card.

It has since been brought to the notice of the Government that many of the cards issued in Madras City and Malabar district contained corrections or erasures or over-writings, so much so that a strict enforcement of this precaution would necessitate employment of additional staff and a considerable volume of scriptory work. The Government have, therefore, amended their instruction and direct that if the cloth ration card contains corrections or over-writings or erasures, the dealer to whom the card is presented should insist on the card-holder producing his food ration card or the alternative certificate and he should verify whether the particulars regarding the strength of the card-holders family given in the food ration card or in the certificate tally with those in the cloth ration card and whether the cloth ration card has been worked out correctly on the basis of 5 yards per adult and two yards per child.

Quarterly Cloth Ration

Government have received representations that there has been a stagnation of coarse and short-length varieties of mill-cloth on account of the consumers postponing their purchases in the hope of getting finer varieties later. In order to obviate a situation like this in future the Government have directed the introduction of a system of quarterly rations. Under this modified procedure a consumer will have to draw not less than one-fourth of his annual ration during the first quarter on pain of forfeiting it. Thus, while a consumer can draw his full annual ration or anything less than that during the first quarter of the ration year, he must necessarily draw at least one-fourth of his annual ration during the first quarter, as otherwise it would lapse. During the second quarter, he will have to draw the balance of cloth due to him subject to a maximum of three-fourths of his annual ration, the balance, if any, over and above the three-fourths limit being treated as lapsed. In the third and fourth quarters of the ration year, he will have the right to draw only half and quarter respectively of his annual ration.

Government have also decided to exclude certain varieties of mill-cloth from the rationing scheme. They are—

1. Redier and Savana Mill cloth from Pondicherry Mills.
2. Khaki and Green drill—B. & C. Mills, Madras. Khaki and Green drill—Bombay area.
3. Khaki twill and matty—B. & C. Mills and Bombay area.
4. Towels—Turkish Bath—B. & C. Mills, Madras (other towels not exceeding 63″×27″).

The suggestion has also been examined by the Government to exclude from the rationing scheme all varieties of mill cloth remaining unsold for a period of two months from the date of receipt by retail dealers. The Provincial Textile Commissioner has already issued instructions on this matter to the effect that slow-selling varieties which remain unsold for over two months should be examined by the Textile Control Officer and may, on his recommendations, be permitted to be sold to ready-made garment makers by the Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioners. Government now permit the selling of these items of cloth outside the ration on condition that this concession will be confined only to coarse and medium varieties of unbleached and coloured cloth having a width of 40 inches and less.

Statistics of cloth and yarn—April 1947

(I) *Mill cloth*—

(i) Local mill production—2,130 bales.

(ii) Receipts from Bombay surplus area—9,118¾ bales.

(iii) Imports of mill cloth from outside Madras Province but inside South Deficit Zone—1,480 bales.

(iv) Cloth made available for distribution by the mills in the South Zone—3,244 bales.

(v) Cloth imported from other countries into the Province—15 bales.

(II) *Handloom cloth*—

Local production in the Province—18,995 bales.

(III) *Yarn*—

(i) Local yarn production (excluding quantity consumed by weaving sections of the Mills)—29,947 bales.

(ii) Imports from outside the Province—1,088 bales.

Development

Radio Sets in Board Schools

The Government have approved the proposal that following the procedure adopted in the case of Panchayat Boards where rural broadcasting sets are permitted to be operated only for two hours in the evenings, the period of working of the battery-operated radio sets in the District Board and Municipal schools installed and maintained by the Provincial Broadcasting Department should be restricted to two hours a day.

The Government have also agreed that, wherever the school authorities are prepared to work the sets in the evening for two hours during the rural listening hour, in addition to the working of the sets for receiving educational programmes, the total period of working of the sets in a day may be limited to three hours. They direct that the extra expenditure by way of additional staff and equipment that may be necessary for replacing the batteries earlier than the scheduled period and for maintaining the mains sets which work for three hours in a day should be met by the Government.

If local bodies are not willing to come into the maintenance scheme of the Provincial Broadcasting Department, they may be allowed to make their own arrangements for the installation of the sets which they can get in the open market.

Provincial Housing Committee

It is well known that there has been shortage of housing accommodation in urban and semi-urban areas in this province. The intensity of the problem has been getting more and more acute and Government in their order, dated 4th June 1947, have appointed a Committee to examine the question. It would help the Committee if members of the general public furnish information regarding the problem based on their experience and knowledge and offer their suggestions classified under proper heads. A copy of the questionnaire for furnishing replies will be furnished on application to the Secretary to the Provincial Housing Committee, Fort. St. George, Madras. The Committee hopes that there will be a ready response from the general public in this direction.

Applications of Ex-Servicemen

The Government of India observe that ex-service personnel and their dependants address petitions to Units and regimental centres on matters with which these centres are not concerned. Examples are applications for ration permits, requests for interference in legal cases and requests for financial assistance in defraying marriage expenses. Naturally, these petitions have to be directed to the proper quarters and this involves not only unnecessary scriptory work but considerable delay in the parties getting redress. It has, therefore, been ruled that, in future, all petitions should be addressed to the local district or State Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Board and the Board will pass on the petitions to the proper quarters.

Harijan Uplift Advisory Committees

The Government have directed that the District Advisory Committees for the amelioration of the conditions of the communities eligible for help by the Labour Department should be known henceforth as District Harijan Uplift Advisory Committees. These Committees will consist of not more than 6 non-official members each with the respective Collector as the Chairman. The term of office of the non-official members will be three years.

The following persons have been nominated as members of the District Harijan Uplift Advisory Committees for Salem, Malabar, Kistna and South Arcot districts. They will hold office for a period of three years from 20th June 1947.

Salem—

1. Sri P. Kandaswami Pillai, M.L.A.
2. Sri M. P. Periaswamy, M.L.A.
3. ,, V. Vanchinatha Ayyar.
4. ,, Narayana Rao.
5. ,, P. Marimuthu.
6. ,, S. Chinnayya.

Malabar—

1. Sri K. Raghavan, M.L.A.
2. ,, A. Karunakara Menon.
3. ,, Swami Anandathirth.
4. ,, K. Sankaran.
5. ,, C. K. Govindan Nair, M.L.A.
6. Sri P. Govindan Nair, M.L.A.

Kistna—

1. Sri S. Venkayya.
2. ,, D. Prasada Rao.
3. ,, S. Venkataramayya.
4. ,, S. Venkataratnam.
5. ,, D. Sanjiva Rao.
6. ,, Guntur Raju.

South Arcot—

1. Sri Swami A. S. Sahajananda, M.L.A.
2. Sri K. Kulasekhara Das, M.L.A.
3. ,, S. Chidambara Ayyar, M.L.A.
4. Mrs. Jagadambal Ammal.
5. Sri M. Pavadai.
6. ,, V. C. Subramania Pillai.

Orders regarding the reconstitution of the District Advisory Committees for the remaining districts will issue separately.

Dispute in Hoe and Company

There was a dispute between the workers and management of Messrs. Hoe & Co., Madras and Trichinopoly and as the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the matter was referred for adjudication. After enquiry the adjudicator has submitted his report and the following are his recommendations :—

1. The strike was legal as notice of it was given The dismissal of a large body of 235 workers is hardly justifiable and the employment of new hands was uncalled for. The management should reinstate all the workers who apply to them for reinstatement to the position in which they were before the strike began, that is, no one should be deprived of the right for gratuity if he has earned it and no one should be deprived of his right to have leave if he has earned it.

2. All workers whether probationers or apprentices should be paid Rs. 18 per mensem.

3. A bonus of one-fourth of the basic wages earned by the workers during the year 1946 is adequate for the year 1946-47.

4. The new terms of service are not enforceable in the case of those who were already employed before the introduction of the new terms.

5. The Provident Fund Rules should be revised by mutual discussions between the Hoe & Co. Employees Association and the management and representative of the workers should be included in the Board of Trustees.

6. The workers should quit the present premises as soon as the management gives another room for locating the office of the Co-operative Society.

7. The removal of Krishnaswami was on proper grounds. If P. S.V. Varadachari gives an undertaking that he will not be irregular in future and promises not to be absent except on leave, he may be taken back into service, provided his previous conduct has been clean.

8. Gratuity need not be paid to Deivasigamony, Ramachandran and Govindan Naidu. Kothandapani Naidu should be paid the salary for the month of May 1945. He should be paid also the 'Gratuity' if he has already earned it.

The Government accept the recommendations of the adjudicator.

Working of the Factories Act

The Administration Report on the Factories Act during 1945 shows that there were 3,217 factories at the end of the year as against 2,889 at the end of 1944. Judging from the number of factories that have submitted returns, there was also a corresponding increase in the number of operatives. Three additional Assistant Inspectors of Factories were employed during the year and the number of inspections increased from 5,211 in 1944 to 6,931 in 1945. The Assistant Inspectress of Factories, Coimbatore, made 218 inspections during the year and gave advice wherever possible to women workers regarding maternity and kindred matters. There was a general improvement in welfare work during the period. The health of the workers was generally good. Respirators and face-masks were supplied to persons who were employed in dust-laden rooms. There was also an expansion of facilities in regard to housing accommodation, schools, co-operative societies and stores, canteens, bonus, savings schemes, medical relief and recreation clubs. In some cases houses were given free of rent. In one case the children of workers were given one free meal a day. Some factories distributed food-grains at concessional rates or fair prices. One of the factories put up a radio for the entertainment of the workers. During the year, several employers granted financial assistance to co-operative stores to enable them to sell things cheaply to workers. The Madura Mills, Ltd., Ambasamudram, contributed Rs. 10,000 to the co-operative stores while the Madura Mills, Madura, paid a monthly subsidy of Rs. 3,750 as well as a lump sum of Rs. 16,000 to the co-operative stores. The Madura Mills, Ltd., Tuticorin, similarly contributed Rs. 9,000 to the co-operative stores. The East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories, Ltd., Nellikuppam, advanced Rs. 95,000 free of interest to the co-operative store for the purchase of provisions. A sum of Rs. 12,000 was given by Madura Mills, Ltd., Ambasamudram, towards the educational facilities of the workers' children. There has been a rise in the average ages of all classes of workers in all the places. The number of strikes during the period was 45 as against 31 in 1944. Eighteen cases of fire occurred but there was no loss of life. Damage to property has been estimated at over five lakhs of rupees but this was mostly covered by insurance. There was also an increase in the number of accidents, the figure being 5,526 in 1945 as against 5,135 in 1944. Of these, 50 were fatal as against 37 in 1944. Many of these accidents were due to the employment of unskilled workers.

Under maternity benefits 2,184 claims were made during the year as against 2,190 in 1944. The total amount of benefit paid was Rs. 47,836 as against Rs. 51,757 in 1944. One hundred and seventy-nine persons were prosecuted during the year for violations of the Factory Act and this figure is more than double that of the previous year. The number of establishments employing children was 371 at the end of the year. In cases where children under 12 years of age were found employed employers were warned to observe the provisions of the Children's Act strictly.

Revenue

Village Headman Reinstated

Sri N. Dakshinamurthy Vanniar who had resigned the post of village headman of Raramudrakottai village, Papanasam taluk, Tanjore district, owing to political reasons, has been reinstated to his old post and the existing incumbent removed there from.

Relief Granted

Government have sanctioned Rs. 10,000 towards relief of those affected by fire at Rajahmundry in April 1947. This is in addition to the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned already. In this connection proposals are under consideration for construction of houses on a co-operative basis for those who have been rendered homeless.

Alienation of Communal Lands

A number of representations were received by the Government alleging that landholders of estates were resorting to large-scale alienation and assignment of communal and forest lands. The Government were also informed that some landholders claimed communal lands as their private lands and assigned those lands and also their private lands with a view to make as much money as possible before any legislation was enacted by the Government in regard to estates. In order to prevent immediately the indiscriminate alienation of those lands an Ordinance called the Madras Communal, Forest and Private lands (Prohibition of Alienation) Ordinance, 1947, has been promulgated.

Agriculturists' Relief Act

The number of cases under the Agriculturists' Relief Act disposed of by civil courts in the Province for the quarter ending 31st March 1947 is 429. For the period between 22nd March 1938 (when the Act came into force) and 31st March 1947 (covering a period of 109 months) the number of cases disposed of is 207,097.

The amount involved in applications disposed of under sections 8, 9, 13, 18 (1), 19 and 19-A of the Act for the quarter ending 31st March 1947 is Rs. 2,82,695. The amount involved in such applications for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st March 1947 stands at Rs. 9,74,51,629.

The amount scaled down by the courts on applications of indebted agriculturists for the quarter ending 31st March 1947 is Rs. 1,51,198. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st March 1947, the amount scaled down stands at Rs. 4,67,89,712.

The amount of reduction by scaling down of debts for the quarter ending 31st March 1947 is Rs. 1,31,497. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st March 1947 the amount of reduction by scaling down debts is Rs. 5,06,61,917.

The number of cases pending at the close of the quarter ending 31st March 1947 and that for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st March 1947 is 346.

The figures given above do not include the number of cases voluntarily settled by parties without recourse to courts.

Miscellaneous

Provincial Quota of Petrol

A report apparently emanating from New Delhi recently appeared in the local press in which it was stated that there has been an increase of 10 per cent in the Provincial quota of petrol. The Government of India have informed the Provincial Rationing Officer that there is no truth in this report and have added that the special additional allotment of one lakh gallons sanctioned in April 1947 for the last quarter will not be repeated in the current quarter. The petrol quota of this Province for the current quarter has not thus been altered although the number of vehicles has increased steadily. The purchase of surplus Army vehicles has contributed to a great extent to this increase. The immediate effect has therefore been to accentuate the already acute petrol situation and the Provincial Rationing Officer has had to effect a minimum reduction of 10 per cent in the rations granted till now.

Amendment to Motor Vehicles Rules

The Government propose to amend the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules 1940 so as to exempt temporarily public service and goods vehicles fitted with left-hand steering control and obtained through the Disposals Organization of the Central Government, from the requirements of the rule swhich prescribe that no public service or goods vehicle shall be driven otherwise than from the right-hand side of the vehicle. It is now proposed to grant the exemption only up to 1st January 1948. The position will, however, be reviewed, and the period of exemption extended, provided that experience has not proved that the use of such left-hand drive vehicles is seriously detrimental to public safety.

No Enquiry into M.S.P. Activities.

The Government understand that reports are being sedulously spread in Malabar district by Communists, especially through the newspaper '*Deshabhimani*' of Calicut, that the Government contemplate ordering a public enquiry into alleged excesses of the M.S.P. in the district. The Government wish to make it clear that the reports are completely unfounded, that there is nothing before the Government which warrants such enquiry and that they have no intention of ordering one.

Hours for interview with Ministers

The hours for interviews of non-official visitors with the Hon'ble Minister (Home) at office on working days laid down in the Public Department Press Note No. 125, dated 14th May 1947, viz., "Between 12 noon and 1 p.m." have been changed to between 3 p.m. and 4–30 p.m." with effect from the 28th June 1947. Interviews with the Hon'ble Minister (Home) during other hours should be by previous engagement in writing. If there is no previous engagement but the purpose of the visit is really urgent and important and the visitor cannot wait till the normal hour for interview, the Reception Officer at the Secretariat will as usual arrange the interview.

National Savings

The subscriptions from all over the province towards National Savings Certificates for the period 1st April to 31st May 1947 amount to Rs. 25,85,245. The figure for the period up to 7th June 1947 is Rs. 27,00,065. Tanjore has shot up to the first place with Rs. 7,97,455. Madras comes next with Rs. 3,48,690 and South Kanara follows with Rs. 2,70,730. The lowest amount of subscription is from Nellore and the figure is Rs. 9,060.

Subsidy to Midwives

In November 1944, the Government enhanced the subsidy to second-class midwives working in subsidized rural dispensaries from Rs. 200 to 240 per annum. They have since increased this subsidy further to Rs. 300 per annum with effect from 1st January 1947.

College Fees Enhanced

Government have ordered the enhancement of the fees of the students of Medical Colleges by 20 per cent with effect from the caademic year 1947–48. The enhanced rates apply also to students who are already on the rolls of the colleges including women students other than those belonging to the Muslim Community, Backward Classes and Harijans. Out of the income accruing from this enhancement 20 per cent will be devoted to the grant of half-fee concessions to deserving poor students including women.

Private Imports of Semolina

Recently the Government of India decided that private imports of semolina from overseas may be allowed if the applications for such imports were recommended by the concerned Governments and a proper import licence was obtained by the applicant from the Chief Controller of Imports. In pursuance of this decision the Madras Government have hitherto been recommending to the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi, applications for issue of licences to import semolina (Ravai) or other wheat products into the Madras Province from overseas, whether the applicants had a licence under the Foodgrains Control Order to trade in the commodities or not. They have now decided to recommend applications only from those who possess licences under the Madras Foodgrains Control Order to deal in wheat products. This decision will take effect from 1st August 1947. Wheat products imported up to 31st July 1947 by non-licensees will be allowed to be disposed of outside the ration provided such holders of stocks intimate to the Controller of Civil Supplies the quantity actually imported and obtain from him temporary licences for the disposal of the stocks on hand. They will be subjected to all the rules to which an ordinary licensee under the Foodgrains Control Order is subject. They cannot dispose of the quantities imported in wholesale except to a licensee under the Foodgrains Control Order or to consumers direct (including establishments) subject to the rules and conditions imposed by the Foodgrains Control Order and the licence issued under it. Temporary licences will be issued only up to 31st July 1947 and will not be issued thereafter. Non-licenced merchants or others who import stocks thereafter will do so at their own risk.

Licensed merchants who import the wheat products can dispose of them outside the ration subject to the rules and conditions imposed by the Foodgrains Control Order and the licence issued under it.

Working of Certified Schools

The Government have reviewed the working of the Madras Children's Act of 1920 and the administration of certified schools in the province for 1946.

The total number of Government and private certified schools in the province remains the same, viz., 4 and 3 respectively, as in the previous year. There were 3,011 pupils (2,764 boys and 247 girls) at the commencement of the year in all the certified schools. Admissions during the year totalled 1,171 and the number of discharges during the year was 1,397 leaving a balance at the close of the year of 2,785 pupils (2,553 were boys and 232 girls). The daily average number of pupils has decreased from 2,959·51 to 2,847·98 during the year. Of the 805 pupils admitted by direct committal, 222 were ordered to be detained for a period not exceeding 2 years, 220 for over two years and not exceeding three years, 179 for above 3 years and not exceeding four years, 90 above 4 years and not exceeding 5 years, 91 above 5 years and not exceeding 10 years and 3 above 10 years as against 251, 286, 224, 247 and 118 respectively in the previous year.

As regards the age of pupils 270 were under 12 years of age, 309 between 12 and 14, 198 between 14 and 15, and 28 between 15 and 16 as against 485, 374, 141 and 131 respectively in the previous year. In point of literacy, 239 out of the 805 were literates and 566 were illiterates as against 216 and 915 in the previous year. Eight hundred and ninety pupils were discharged during the year and of these 235 were literates and 645 were illiterates on admission. But the illiterates were made literates before they were discharged. Of those admitted during the year, 757 were first offenders, 31 had one previous conviction, 13 were destitutes and 4 uncontrollables. Fifty-six pupils escaped from the custody of the schools as against 36 in the previous year. One hundred and one offences were reported as against 153 in the previous year. There was no change in the system of educational and industrial training during the year. Among the various industrial subjects on which instruction was imparted in the certified schools, carpentry, weaving, tailoring, blacksmithy, metal work, masonry and band are worth mentioning. A systematic programme of physical education besides band-drill has been followed. The boys played hockey, cricket, football, volley ball, ring tennis, badminton, Chedugudu and khokho, etc. The boys were also trained in gymnastics and wrestling as well. Training in ambulance, First-aid and scouting continued to be given to the pupils.

Of the ameliorative measures introduced during the year, the scheme of allowing boys to remain in open dormitories in the certified schools for a period of one year deserves mention. The installation and maintenance of Radio sets in the certified schools at Chingleput and Bellary were also sanctioned during the year.

Control of Malaria

In the recent past, Government tried an experiment in the direction of controlling Malaria in the Cuddapah district and it has yielded remarkable results. The incidence of Malaria was very high in the Cuddapah Municipal area. This was traced to Bugga Vanka which forms practically the western boundary of the town and commands a catchment area of 160 square miles. The water in the Vanka does not flow with sufficient velocity with the result that it collects in pools offering a fertile breeding ground for mosquitoes. Consequently Malaria broke out in a virulent form in Cuddapah town in November 1943 and continued to be a menace to the public health of the place. As an anti-Malarial measure, therefore, it was suggested that the Bugga Vanka should be canalised. The experiment of canalization was put through and has resulted in a marked reduction in the incidence of Malaria in that locality.

The morbidity due to Malaria before canalization, that is during 1944, was 41,740 while during and after canalization the figure was 7,489. Similarly, the number of deaths due to Malaria during 1944 was 188 while the corresponding figure in 1946 was 10. During 1944 there were only 806 births while the number of births in 1946 was 1,071. The splenic index in 1944, in the wards on the bank of Bugga Vanka, was 60 per cent while it was only 12 per cent on the average in 1946. These statistics show that in addition to the temporary preventive measures adopted in the Cuddapah Municipality the canalization of Bugga Vanka has contributed to a steep reduction in the incidence of malarial fever in that area.

It may be mentioned here that Malaria is one of the major public health problems in this province. It considerably de-vitalizes the population and has been to a large extent responsible for the slow economic development. Government have, therefore, been tackling this scourge on a planned and comprehensive basis. There are four regional organizations functioning under the Public Health Department charged with the special responsibility of combating this disease. Local remedies are also resorted to where these are likely to prove successful.

Admission to Professional Colleges

The Government have passed orders on the question of according admission to naturalized British subjects to the medical and engineering colleges in this Presidency. Only applications from such of those naturalized subjects, as have applied for naturalization certificates through the Madras Government, will be considered. A total ten-year-period of residence in the province is necessary for the candidates. The district in which the candidate or his parent resided at the time of applying for admission to the college will be taken as the district to which the candidate belongs for purposes of the rule regarding linguistic representation. Candidates will not be required to produce nativity certificates but will have to furnish proofs in support of the other requirements expected of them. Such proofs should be attested by a Magistrate or by a Gazetted Officer.

At present candidates applying for admission to agricultural and certain professional colleges are required to produce the originals of their University and other certificates as well as testimonials. But it has been shown that difficulty arises when admission is sought in more than one college and if these college authorities demand the simultaneous production of certificates in original. The Government therefore, considered the situation and relaxed the conditions in the case of medical colleges.

Now this relaxation is extended to apply to agricultural Colleges also. In future it will be enough if certified copies of the certificates are produced by the applicants in the first instance. Such copies have to be certified as true by a Government Officer not below the rank of a Gazetted Officer or a Magistrate. Authorities competent to select candidates for the colleges, will, however, reserve the right to call for the originals at any time in the event of any doubt before the actual selection has been made. Originals of the certificates should invariably be produced, after admission, for verification and for record in the Agricultural department.

Revenue Minister Answers Critics

The following statement has been issued by Sri Kala Venkatrao, Minister for Land Revenue :—

I have seen the statement of Sri T. Prakasam issued from Tirupati on 23rd June 1947 regarding the rent in zamindari lands. He has followed it up with a speech at the Nilakkottai Political Conference and said that the present Ministry fell a victim to the machinations of the zamindars, while he himself successfully resisted them and that the present policy of the Government is pernicious to the interests of the ryots.

Answering the former statement first I am sorry to state that he has not correctly estimated the proposal which is being considered by the Government. The proposal is to introduce a Bill for the abolition of the zamindaris straight-away and the Bill is almost ready. A period of at least four to five years may be necessary to complete the survey and settlement operations in the estates and arrive at a final rate of land revenue that has to be collected from the ryots by the Government. Therefore it will be preposterous to ask the zamindari ryots who are already rackrented to wait all this period without getting any benefit from the change-over of the management of the estates from the zamindars to the Government. Hence it is proposed to give a sort of interim relief to the ryots in zamindari areas by reducing their rentals to the level of the land revenue now collected in nearby ryotwari villages, while simultaneously the abolition will take place and consequential action will be taken. This will help the ryots to a good extent. Soon after the estates are taken over there will be only one sort of land tenure throughout the Province namely, ryotwari tenure. What should be the system of land taxation throughout the Presidency and what should be the rates at which taxes are to be levied would have to be dealt with at that stage. That would be the time to consider whether such rates should be based on 1802 rates or 1810 rates or those at some other date. This will also mean that the present ryotwari system needs immediate revision, being out of date and unfair to the poor.

But let me also state that simple reduction of rates would not suffice, and the more important thing is to change the incidence of the levy itself. It is a known thing that the present day land revenue system is a regressive

one. That is, a person owning one acre of land pays, say, at the rate of Rs. 8 per acre, while a person who owns 1,000 acres also pays at the rate of Rs. 8 per acre. The marginal value of Rs. 8 for a man owning one acre is far more than the Rs. 8,000 which the other person owning 1,000 acres has to pay out of his income on his holding of land. Therefore what is really needed is not a simple reduction of the rate of levy (let it be 1802 or 1810) but also a recast of the system itself by replacing the regressive tax by a progressive tax. That is, while the one acre man will pay the tax at the rate of, say, Rs. 4 per acre, the 1,000 acre man will have to pay at the rate of, say, Rs. 12 per acre. This reform can be achieved as soon as a single system of land tenure will come to exist soon after the estates go.

In this connexion we have also to think of alternate systems of tax-levy like a purchase tax, etc. All these things are being considered by the Government. So Sri Prakasam's harping that he would have reduced rents to the 1802 level and would have cancelled all settlement enhancements in ryotwari lands after 1810 will not satisfy any criteria of modern taxation systems. We would aim at a more revolutionary conception and a new set-up which will aid the smaller man.

Even on the question of the time factor Sri Prakasam cannot accuse the present Ministry. What he wanted to do and did not do while he was Revenue Minister for nearly thirty months and as Premier for eleven months, the present Government are trying to achieve within six months. I will not be unfair to Sri Prakasam as he is unfair to me but would say that I am trying to build up on such foundations as he laid earlier and if the structure is a modern one and will be owned by the poor man, Sri Prakasam need not get worried.

For Sri Prakasam to say that the rent reduction is only to aid the zamindars as regards compensation, is to say something that is preposterous. What I have said above will disabuse any fair mind. For him to go further and say what he said at Nilakkottai is to exceed the limits of a gentleman's difference of opinion. Time alone will prove as to who resisted the zamindars, who reduced to nought the alleged machinations if any, and whether the present land policy of the Government will be pernicious to the ryot or will be a boon and panacea to him. I can only say that the "time" taken to achieve the objective will not be a long one but will be a short one and I do not believe in saying "I would have done so if . . ." but in saying "by the will of the people, I am able to do this much."

Appointment of Honorary Medical Officers

In December 1942, the Government ordered that appointment of Honorary Medical Officers in Government Medical institutions should be reserved for Doctors with Military service to their credit and that the appointments made in the meantime should not be for a period of five years as usual but for a *period not exceeding five years.* It was also laid down that if and when suitable medical officers with Military service become available they should replace honorary Medical Officers who had no Military service to their credit.

The Government had since decided, in March 1947, to allocate 66-2/3 per cent of all reserved vacancies to candidates with war service and the remaining 33-1/3 per cent to others. This decision has now been made applicable to honorary appointments also. War service candidates, will however, be eligible to apply for vacancies allotted for the members of the public but they will not be given any special preference by reason of their military service and will be judged by their other qualifications.

Work of the Rice Study Group at Trivandrum

By SIR S. V. RAMAMURTHI

It is a matter of satisfaction to the Indian Delegation that the proposal for the formation of a Rice Board in South-East Asia has had the benefit of examination by the Member Nations of the Rice Study Group. An agenda for the Rice Conference which is to be called after the FAO Conference at Geneva in August has been approved by the Rice Study Group.

Looking at the recommendations made in committees on the improvement of rice production which is a crucial problem for the economic development of South-East Asia, one finds that there is little that is new in regard to the methods proposed. We are all aware of the need to improve irrigation, provide good seed and chemical as well as organic manure, introduce mechanized methods of cultivation, eradicate pests and arrange the spread of new knowledge by demonstration and propaganda. That which the nations together can do is to accelerate the finding of new methods by concerted and comparative studies and even more to accelerate action by co-ordinated effort. The basic need then is to find a new mechanism. It is for this prupose that the Indian Delegation has proposed the formation of a Rice Board in South-East Asia. Such a Board is needed, too, for common organization and action in regard to stocks, prices and international distribution. Even more than a new-mechanism, there is need for a new will. South East Asia is the part of Asia which has been most subject to European imperialism. Colonialism has left behind not only economic poverty but also a degradation of spirit. This spiritual degradation has sapped the will to improve and live well. The basic remedy for poor production in South East Asia is freedom. There is no justification, political, economic or moral why U.S.A. and U.K. should interpose themselves between producers and consumers of rice in South East Asia. There is need for U.S.A. and U.K. to quit rice in South East Asia.

The discussions by the Study Group have shown a range of opinion varying from that expressed by Burma to that held by India. On the former view, there is no need for a radical remedy; a little extension of the mechanism and the activity of the FAO is all that is needed. On the latter view, more pointed and energetic action is necessary if South East Asia is to rise above the low economic level of her life, where the people, after a century or two of European tutelage, have remained poor and become even poorer in spite of all the scientific advances by which the western world has enormously raised its level of living. I have no doubt that this range of opinion will be considerably narrowed down and a view approximating to that of India will be reached when all the rice producing countries of South East Asia who have not been invited by the FAO as members of the Rice Study Group attend the Rice Conference and are represented through popular Governments and speak through their own nationals.

Sir John Boyd-Orr, the Director-General of FAO, has stated that unless a world food plan is made and executed, a third world-war is bound to come. An attempt to form an international Wheat Council which can execute a world wheat plan has recently failed in London. The chances of success of a world rice plan are, I fully believe, brighter, because of the rice position under which rice is produced and consumed, in the main, in a concentrated area of similar economic and social conditions and its problems lend themselves to being dealt with on all fronts by a single body.

I venture to hope therefore, that the Governments of the European and American nations present here will, when they receive the reports of their representatives, not seek to deny us the formation of the Rice Board for which I have been pleading—and demanding—in Washington and Trivandrum. I have also every hope that our views will receive sympathetic appreciation from Sir John Boyd-Orr, who has the capacity for combining the real and ideal, which Britain at her best has been known to achieve.

Statistics of Paddy Cultivation

Yield in 1946—47 below normal

The average area under paddy in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944–45 represents 13·3 per cent of the total area under paddy in India.

The area sown with paddy in 1946–47 is estimated at 10,573,000 acres as against 9,952,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year and the finally recorded area of 10,202,580 acres in 1945-46. The present estimate shows an increase of 3·6 per cent over the final area in the previous year.

1,576,000 acres have been reported as sown since the last forecast was issued in December 1946, made up of 121,000 acres in the Circars, 99,000 acres in the Deccan, 388,000 acres in the Carnatic, 409,000 acres in the Central districts, 537,000 acres in the South and 22,000 acres in the West Coast and Hills. The area sown in December 1946 and January 1947 was more than that sown in the corresponding period of the previous year by 692,000 acres or by nearly 78 per cent.

The area under second-crop paddy is expected to be normal or slightly above the normal in most districts of the Province due to the availability of water in irrigation sources as a result of heavy rains received towards the end of the north-east monsoon period.

As compared with the final area of last year, an increase in area is estimated in all the districts of the Province except East Godavari, West Godavari, Tanjore, Malabar and South Kanara, where the area is slightly less than that of last year.

The harvest of the main crop of paddy is in progress. The yield per acre is expected to be below the normal in all the districts of the Province, due partly to insufficient rain and water-supply in the early stages and partly to heavy rains and continuous wet weather in November and December 1946. The crop is also reported to have been affected

(*Continued on page* 25)

Prohibition in Full Swing

Report for the month of April

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot during April 1947 is published for information :—

I. Enforcement.

Cases detected.—The total number of cases detected in the eight districts during the months of January to April 1947 were as follows :—

January 1947.	1,763
February 1947.	1,541
March 1947 ..	2,352
April 1947 ..	2,059

There was a decrease in the total number of cases detected, in all the districts except Bellary and Coimbatore during the month of April 1947.

Illicit distillation.—Out of the 2,059 cases detected, 1,302 (about 63 per cent) related to illicit distillation and kindred offences. The total number of illicit distillation cases decreased from 925 to 822. The decrease was apparently due to the rounding up of several gangs of illicit distillers in the previous month.

Illicit tapping.—Seventy-nine cases of tapping sweet-juice without licence were detected in the month, of which 59 related to Coimbatore.

Smuggling of liquor from border States.—Smuggling of liquor from Banganapalle, Mysore and Hyderabad States continued during the month. H.E.H. the Nizam's Government have taken steps to shift all abkari shops beyond three miles from the Madras border, from 6th October 1947. The District Prohibition Officer, Anantapur has been instructed to take immediate steps to see that the smuggling of Banganapalle arrack into Tadpatri town is stopped.

Assistance by non-officials.—The work done by Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in connection with the detection of crimes continued to be poor.

General.—The preventive work has, on the whole, been satisfactory.

II. Ameliorative work.

Substitutes for drink.—Except Chittoor, all other districts report that there was an increase in the number of tea and coffee shops, and that there was a perceptible increase in their business.

Rural recreation.—During the month under review, there has been an all-round improvement in the work done by the Rural Recreation Officers. The number of villages visited by them increased from 456 in March to 735 in April. Though there has been a fall in the number of Taluk tournaments, the number of firka tournaments held increased from 26 to 44 which tends to indicate that the rural folk are taking greater interest in sports.

The Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, witnessed a display of games and other interesting items of entertainment given by the Gramasanghams at Sholinghur and Sumaithangi in North Arcot district. He also attended a firka tournament at Tondamathur in Coimbatore district and a display of rural games at Konganapuram in Salem district.

Bhajanas, Kathaprasangams and Kalakshepams.—This form of amusement continued to be popular among the villagers.

Cinemas.—Four new cinema houses were started, two in Salem and two in Anantapur district. Four new theatres are reported to be under construction in North Arcot district.

Dramas.—Dramatic performances were also held in the several Prohibition districts during the month.

Rural uplift.—Five thousand three hundred and thirty-three Gramasanghams, 278 Firka Associations and 29 Taluk Associations have been organized, and they actively engaged themselves during the month under review in varied activities beneficial to the villagers, such as construction of roads, public latrines, school buildings, cleaning of streets, etc. The work done by some of the gramasanghams in the different districts is detailed below :—

Salem district.—One village uplift sangham completed a road work and eight sanghams repaired eight village communications. One sangham raised public donations and constructed a school building. Two gramasanghams collected funds locally and put up public latrines in their villages. Nine village uplift sanghams opened night schools for adults. Eight sanghams introduced bee-keeping. A number of village sanghams arranged for the cleaning of their streets.

Anantapur district.—One sangham arranged to collect Rs. 100 to clean two wells on the river-bed used by Kuruvas and Harijans.

Bellary district.—The Kuduthani Gramasangham has arranged to provide a playground and put up a library and reading room. One village development committee has made arrangements for the construction of a road to connect its village with Siruguppa and one sangham has taken steps to construct public latrines and to convert one step-well into a draw well.

Coimbatore district.—Four gramasanghams arranged for sinking new wells and repairing old ones. Ten sanghams have arranged to clean the streets and lanes of their villages. One sangham repaired the main road of the village at a cost of Rs. 100. Two others repaired the village roads by collecting necessary funds locally. Night schools were conducted by six sanghams in seven villages. The Kottampatti sangham collected Rs. 500 for training dramatic troupes. One sangham has collected Rs. 700 for constructing a school building. The Periyapuliyur sangham has completed the construction of a school building at a cost of Rs. 1,000. Ten sanghams enrolled additional members for the co-operatives working in their area.

Kurnool district.—Four gramasanghams have arranged to construct public latrines. Three other sanghams have taken up the construction of approach roads to their respective villages from the main roads. One Uplift sangham has resolved to construct a draw well and a public latrine and has arranged to remove manure pits outside the village.

North Arcot district.—One gramasangham has arranged for protected water-supply to the villagers. Street lighting was undertaken by one sangham. One village sangham has collected Rs. 2,000 for the construction of a school building while another sangham collected Rs. 500 and put up a thatched shed to the village school.

Promotion of thrift.—The amount saved as a result of the thrift campaign up to the end of April 1947, was Rs. 68,555 as against Rs. 54,243 up to the end of March 1947.

House building societies.—Thirty-five quarry workers of Sholinghur, all of whom are ex-addicts, joined and subscribed each Rs. 100 and formed a

(*Continued on page* 13)

Public Health Problems of the Province

Deliberations of Medical Conference

The following is the official account of the Conference convened by the Hon'ble Sri A.B. Shetty, Minister for Public Health, which met on the 27th, 28th and 30th of June at the Legislative Council Chamber and discussed various problems concerning the Medical and Public Health Department.

The following persons were present at the Conference :—

Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, M.D., LL.D., D.S.C., F.R.C.O.G., Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras; The Surgeon General with the Government of Madras; The Director of Public Health; The Director, King Institute, Guindy; The Principal, Madras Medical College; The Principal, Stanley Medical College; The Principal, Andhra Medical College, Vizagapatam; The Superintendent, Government-General Hospital, Madras; The Superintendent, King George Hospital, Vizagapatam; The Superintendent, Government Stanley Hospital, Madras; Dr. P. V. Cherian, M.B.E., F.R.C.S. (Edin), etc., Dr. G. R. Dinker Rau, M.D., Dr. T. Satagopan, M.D., Dr. M. R. Guruswamy Mudaliar, M.D., Sri A. V. Raman, Editor, Peoples' Health; The Assistant Directress of Public Health, Maternity and Child Welfare; The Professor of Hygiene, Madras Medical College; Dr. Rao Bahadur T. S. Tirumurti, President, Indian Medical Association, South Indian Branch; Dr. M. V. Krishna Rao, President, Indian Medical Association, Andhra Provincial Branch, Ellore; Captain S. Thambiah, M.R.C.S., President, Madras Medical Association; Dr. D. V. Venkappa, Provincial Secretary of the All-India Medical Licenciates' Association; Dr. K. C. Nambiyar, Secretary, Honorary Medical Officers' Association, and Joint Secretary, Education and Public Health Department (Secretary).

First day

Dr. Rajan could not be present owing to indisposition, but sent a message wishing the Conference success.

The Hon'ble Minister, inaugurating the Conference, thanked the distinguished invitees for placing their time and experience at the service of the Government. Continuing he said that Madras which has a reputation for being progressive should take particular note of the vast developments that have taken place in the world at large in the field of curative and preventive medicine and move with the times. He also mentioned that some of the items put down for discussion at the Conference had been covered by the Bhore Committee Report, which is being carefully studied by the Public Health Department in consultation with the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health.

At the very outset it was decided that the Conference would only lay down the general outlines of policy, i.e., the fundamental principles to be followed in the various matters, and leave the details to be formulated by two sub-committees, one dealing with all subjects connected with medical education and the other with all subjects connected with Medical and Public Health services.

The agenda before the Conference covered 36 items, beginning with recruitment to the Provincial Medical Service.

Recruitment to Provincial Medical Service.—After prolonged discussion the Conference recommended that in future all paid Medical Officers should be considered whole-time servants and they should be allowed no private practice. To implement this recommendation, it was suggested, the scales of pay in Medical Service should be revised so as to bring them in line with the best paid provincial service in other fields. Pending such revision of scales the existing incumbents are to enjoy the present privileges, and after revision they are to have the option either to accept the new scales or to have the existing scales and the existing privileges. New entrants are of course to be placed in the new scales.

Recruitment to the teaching cadre.—It was agreed that a special teaching cadre should be formed for the Medical Colleges. The back-bone of the teaching cadre should be a skeleton of paid men. All professors or heads of the departments are to be full-time men. They should be assisted by a reasonable proportion of honorary hands in the clinical subjects. The need for increasing the ratio of teachers to students was emphatically urged by all.

Honorary staff.—The Conference recommended that the existing system of utilizing the services of Honorary men at the District Headquarters hospitals and Taluk Headquarters hospitals should be continued and extended under suitable conditions to be prescribed by the appropriate sub-committee.

Foreign training.—The Conference recommended that the Government should encourage sending qualified men abroad, not so much for the purpose of enabling them to go 'degree-hunting' as for enabling them to visit the various institutions and study the latest developments in other countries. It was also suggested that professors should be deputed to visit periodically other countries and see for themselves how things were being done elsewhere in the world and to get the 'brains dusted.' In selecting candidates to be sent for foreign training preferably persons between 30 and 40, i.e., men who have had some experience and who have some years of service before them should be selected and the claims of honorary men should be considered.

Another measure recommended by the Conference was that in the teaching hospitals a Dean should be appointed to co-ordinate the administrative work of the hospital and the attached college and that no professional or teaching duties should devolve on the Dean. It was also urged that a department of dietetics should be set up in teaching centres, special courses in dietetics instituted for the benefit of the nursing sisters and trained dieticians employed in large hospitals.

Miscellaneous.—The question of providing adequate staff for the teaching hospitals, regulating hours of work in the hospitals and Colleges, establishment of separate hospitals for chronic and convalescent cases, starting of special departments in the hospitals, re-orientation of medical studies in the light of the Bhore Committee Report and post-graduate medical education, were referred by the Conference to the respective sub-committees to be constituted.

Second day

When the Conference resumed its sitting the next day, 13 more items on the agenda were disposed of.

A message of good wishes from the Hon'ble the Premier was read at the

Conference in the course of which the Hon'ble the Premier said that the aim of the Conference should be to bring the benefits of modern science to the cottage of the humblest at the cheapest cost.

Refresher Courses for Doctors.—It was recommended that refresher courses of different duration lasting from 1 to 2 weeks and from 2 weeks to about 6 weeks or more should be instituted wherever possible. Short courses, it was suggested, would be particularly welcomed by busy practitioners, and such courses should be organized not only in the teaching hospitals but also at suitable District Headquarters Hospitals. If possible, specialists in the various branches of medical science should be sent to the District Headquarters Hospitals on a short visit of about 7 to 10 days to conduct refresher courses. Their expenses in this connection, it was suggested, should be met by the Government. The details of the refresher courses scheme are to be worked out by the sub-committee.

Dental Education.—The Conference recommended that in the light of the Bhore Committee Report the establishment of a Dental College at Madras should be given top priority. Since qualified men to staff the College are not easily available, men should be recruited on a contract basis for a period of, say, five years.

Provision of adequate number of Nurses.—It was strongly urged that the number of nurses should be increased and that the number of beds per nurse should be reduced. To attract suitable candidates to the nursing profession the terms of their service and the conditions of work and lodging and boarding should be improved. It was agreed that male nurses would be useful for certain types of work and certain institutions like the Mental Hospital, the Jail Hospital, etc. The question of giving efficient training to the nurses was referred by the Conference to the sub-committee.

Health Visitors, Midwives and Dais.—The Conference was emphatically of the opinion that the Province needed many more midwives and health visitors, but was not in favour of continuing the system of dais. The system of training dais was at best only an emergency measure resorted to at a time when sufficient number of women were not coming forward for training as midwives. Now that there is no such dearth of candidates for training as midwives, there is no need for dais. It was also suggested that the term ' midwife ' should be substituted by the word ' maternity nurse '.

Hospital Social Workers.—The need for developing the social side of medicine was agreed to by the Conference but since the Provincial Government have already deputed an officer overseas to study social medicine, it was decided that this question might be deferred pending the return of this officer.

Research.—The Conference agreed that research in medicine and public health was highly desirable and necessary, but that before any scheme could be usefully launched to encourage research the Professors and other members of the staff in the teaching hospitals should have enough leisure and funds at their disposal to devote to research and the advancement of the science. It was decided to refer this question to the sub-committee.

Medical Libraries.—The need for good libraries for the use of students and Professors as well as for the use of general practitioners was emphasized. In the course of the discussion it was pointed out that a good librarian is the *Sine-Qua-Non* of any good library. Not only should the teaching hospitals be provided with good libraries but also the District Headquarters Hospitals, and these libraries should be open to the general practitioners as well.

Miscellaneous.—It was decided that the question of pharmaceutical education, public health engineering, manufacture and standardization of drugs, medicines and other hospital requirements, should be referred to the relevant sub-committees.

Third day

On the third day of its sitting the Conference concluded its deliberations.

Selection of Medical Students.—The question whether admission to the medical colleges should be decided on the basis of examination marks, or what other tests and considerations should be applied, was, after considesable discussion, referred by the Conference to the sub-committee.

Supply of trained medical personnel.—While it was agreed that more doctors were necessary to cope with the requirements of the province, the general sense of the Conference was against instituting a shorter course of training to increase the production of doctors of the type of Russian "feldsher" for the rural areas. It was pointed out that rural areas, no less than the urban areas, required fully-trained and qualified doctors. However, the Conference suggested that it would be useful to give elementary medical training to Sanitary Inspectors and thus enable them to render first-aid and preliminary advice.

Planned Medical Relief.—In view of the fact that at present certain areas have a large number of medical institutions while other areas have only few such institutions, the Conference recommended that a systematic survey of each district should be made in order to find out the requirements of each locality. There should be a more reasonable distribution of medical institutions. Perhaps the best method of approach would be to divide the province into five zones or so, and make each zone more or less self-sufficient in the sense that the most up-to-date treatment would be available in each zone. Motor ambulance transport for serious cases should be available at the different hospitals in each zone. Hospitals might be divided into three grades A, B and C. There should be at least one or two 'A' grade hospitals in each zone where all facilities should be available for surgical, medical and obstetric work and for specialities. It was also suggested that the personnel of the medical department should be available for public health work in the remoter areas and the Assistant Surgeons to be newly recruited should be given three months' course in public health. The details about planned medical relief, the improvement of District headquarters Hospitals and the co-ordination of medical and public health work were referred to the sub-committee.

Pharmacology.— The Conference recommended that the department of Pharmacology should be enlarged and scope should be given for the investigation of Indian drugs and plants. The creation of a research section in this department was also recommended.

School of Hygiene.—The Conference recommended that the establishment of a School of Hygiene should be given top priority and that it would be desirable to establish the school in the premises of the Madras Medical College. It condemned in very strong terms the location of the present department of Hygiene and insisted that the present building should be demolished and a new one constructed as soon as possible.

Private nursing homes.—While the Conference agreed to the necessity

of controlling and registering private maternity and nursing homes, it sounded a word of caution with regard to the manner in which such controls were to be exercised. It was pointed out that Government's desire to control private nursing homes with a view to making them come up to the prescribed standard should not be allowed to interfere with the growth and development of private institutions. A draft bill on the subject that has been drawn up by the Director of Public Health was also referred to the committee.

Birth control.—The Conference recommended that the Government should not take any initiative in the matter of disseminating knowledge about birth control methods, though if any patient required such knowledge to safeguard her health, it might be given by the medical officer.

Medical buildings.—The Conference recommended that when new buildings are constructed for hospitals, etc., they should not be constructed to last more than 25 or 30 years. By that time, new designs might come in and new developments might take place.

Sub-Committees

The following members were nominated to the two Sub-Committees :—

Medical Education Sub-Committee.—Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, the Surgeon-General, Dr. P. V. Cherian, Dr. Kini, Dr. Bhaskara Menon and Dr. Satagopan.

Public Health and Medical Services Sub-Committee.—Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, the Surgeon-General, the Director of Public Health, Dr. Tirumurti, Dr. Pandit and Mr. A. V. Raman.

The Joint Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, will be the Secretary to both the Sub-Committees.

The Hon'ble the Minister at the conclusion of the discussion thanked the distinguished invitees for the most valuable help they had rendered and hoped that the two Sub-Committees would finish their work in a month's time.

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Dr. Krishna Rao and Mr. A. V. Raman expressed their gratitude to the Hon'ble the Minister for giving the medical profession an opportunity—the first time in the history of Madras Government—to have a say in medical and public health matters.

Railway Earnings

M. & S. M. Railway

On 15th May 1947, three additional passenger trains were introduced each way on the broad gauge between Madras and Jalarpet, Renigunta and Gooty and Walajah Road and Ranipet. The Railway is now running on both the broad gauge and metre gauge 95 per cent of its pre-war passenger service.

The approximate earnings for April 1947 compare as under with those of April 1946 :—

	1946. RS.	1947. RS.
Coaching traffic.	77,32,000	83,38,000
Goods ..	67,77,000	65,29,000
Miscellaneous.	2,58,000	2,42,000
Total ..	1,47,67,000	1,51,09,000

The approximate volume of passenger and goods traffic carried during April 1946 and 1947 are as follows :—

	1946.	1947.
Number of passengers (all classes).	6,206,000	6,505,000
Goods traffic (in tons).	652,000	627,000

South Indian Railway

There has been a slight increase in the train services during May 1947.

The train miles run in May 1947 as compared with those of May 1946 are shown below :—

Public train	*May* 1946. MILES.	*May* 1947. MILES.
Coaching ..	688,792	837,413
Goods	253,864	255,310
Total ..	942,656	1,092,723

The increase is due to the introduction of additional train services.

Details of traffic both passenger and goods, carried during the month of May 1947 as compared with the previous month and the corresponding month of last year are given below :—

	May 1946.	*May* 1947.	*April* 1947.
Coaching traffic.			
Number of passengers.	10,082,843	13,068,010	11,440,699
Earnings. Rs.	74,64,707	82,38,963	72,24,721
Goods traffic-			
Weight in tons.	528,391	540,446	5 0,758
Earnings. Rs.	44,76,574	43,63,964	42,23,738

The increase in passenger earnings is mainly due to the marriage season, introduction of additional trains and increase in fares. The decrease in goods earnings, even though there is an increase of tonnage, is due to the greater movement of low rated traffic carried over short distances.

Prohibition in Full Swing

(*Continued from page* 10)

society for house-building. Two more such societies have been formed in Salem. Another society of the kind was initiated for the weavers of Tiruchengode. Other rural housing schemes by weaving co-operative societies are also under consideration in the prohibition districts.

Weavers' societies.—As the number of ex-addicts is large among weavers, the ameliorative staff pay particular attention to them. During April 1947, several weavers' societies were formed on a co-operative basis one in Konakondala in Anantapur district, another in Adoni in Bellary district and three more in Salem district.

Co-operative jaggery manufacturing societies.—In the four districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor where co-operative societies for the manufacture of jaggery have been formed, 159,265 maunds of jaggery, valued at Rs. 11,40,099, were produced.

General.—The reports from the Collectors record a general improvement in the social and economic life of the ex-addicts and their families. They are said to be leading a happier life with fewer domestic quarrels. Street brawls have almost ceased. A general improvement in their standard of living is noticed.

India's Iron and Steel Industry

The iron and steel industry is one of the ancient industries of the country. In 1830, an attempt was made to manufacture pig iron and steel by modern methods. In a sense, the modern period in the history of the industry begins with the establishment of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited, at Sakchi in 1907. Pig iron was produced by the Company in 1911 and steel in 1913.

As a result of the war of 1914–18, imports of iron and steel into India declined considerably—from 1,018,000 tons in 1913–14 to 181,000 tons in 1918–19. The Tatas made the fullest use of this opportunity, with the result that the production of pig iron increased from 162,282 tons in 1914 to 232,268 tons in 1919 and of finished steel from 19,130 tons in 1912–13 to 123,890 tons in 1918–19. After the war, however, imports again shot up to 427,000 tons in 1919–20 and to 712,000 tons in 1920–21. In the face of severe foreign competition, the Company had no alternative but to approach Government for protection in 1922. Protection was first granted to the iron and steel industry in 1924 and has continued ever since, subject to revision from time to time.

The Indian Tariff Board has considered that the iron and steel industry is no longer in need of protection and has recommended that the existing protective duties should be replaced by revenue duties. It has further recommended that an assurance should be given to the iron and steel industry that it would be free to approach Government with a request for a tariff enquiry at any time. Government have accepted these recommendations of the Board.

Progress under protection

In spite of several difficulties and handicaps, internal and external, the industry made remarkable progress under the aegis of protection. In 1927–28, the Tata Company's share of the Indian market was 30 per cent but rose to 72 per cent in 1932–33. The works costs were considerably reduced; plant was modernised and its efficiency raised and the actual output maintained at a high proportion of 75 per cent of the total capacity of the works. A number of subsidiary industries such as engineering, tin plate, etc. sprang up as a result of the development of the main industry and together with it gave employment to about 150,000 people.

Pre-war production

At the outbreak of World War II, India was maikng about 1,750,000 tons of pig iron, of which about 60 per cent was used for making steel, the remainder being exported or used in iron foundries in India. The exports went chiefly to Japan, U.K., U.S.A., Burma, Ceylon, Java and Africa.

The finished steel made in India amounted to 750,000 tons per annum on an average. It consisted of structurals, bars, rods, plates, sheets, corrugated sheets, rails, railway fittings, tin-plates, wires, steel castings, nails, nuts and bolts, etc. At the Ordnance Factory guns, shells and armaments fittings were made.

Pre-war consumption of Steel

In addition to the average production of 750,000 tons of finished steel in India, there were imports varying from 200,000 to 300,000 tons a year. Thus, the total steel available was about one million tons per annum. Its distribution by consumers was roughly as follows :—

	TONS.
Railway	200,000
Port Trust, roads and rivers.	25,000
Packing	60,000
Textile, tea and other industries.	50,000
Structural fabricators ..	80,000
Roofing of KACHCHA buildings.	100,000
Buildings (including Government).	343,000
Miscellaneous including small industries).	142,000
Total ..	1,000,000

Thus, about 60 per cent of the total steel production was being taken over by Government.

India's place in the World as Producer of Steel

Although steel production has made rapid strides, India's place among producing countries of the world is extremely low as is evident from the following comparative figures of output of steel ingots and castings of the various countries in 1939 :—

Country.	NET TONS.
U.S.A.	52,798,000
Germany	29,617,000
U.S.S.R.	20,719,000
U.K.	15,119;000
Japan	7,055,000
Belgium	3,429,000
India	750,000

In pre-war world production of pig iron was 102 and of steel 136 million tons per annum, whilst that of India was only about 1¾ million tons and 750,000 tons, respectively.

Development during World War II

When war broke out, there was a heavy demand for steel for military purposes. Imports of steel declined, but its production increased because, apart from the replacements of plant and the introduction of various efficiency methods by the old producers like the Tatas, several new producers, including the steel Corporation of Bengal, had come into production. Production of finished steel (excluding semis) was as under :—

	TONS.
1938–39	726,000
1940–41	925,000
1942–43	907,000
1943–44	978,000
1944–45	923,000

The output and imports of steel (including semis but excluding ingots, blooms, billets and slabs) were as below :—

In thousands of tons.

	1938–39	1940–41	1942–43	1943–44	1944–45
Production	932	1,245	1,253	1,353	1,268
Imports	252	172	48	26	50
Available supply	1,184	1,417	1,301	1,379	1,318

The production of pig iron also increased from about 1,750,000 tons in 1938 to about 2,000,000 tons in 1943, while its exports, which amounted annually to 500,000 to 600,000 tons in the years 1938–39 to 1941–42, dropped to 240,000 tons in 1942–43. Most of the pig iron produced in the country was thus converted into steel in the country itself. The increase

July 12 1947

in the various items of finished steel was as below :—

Items.	*Pre-war.*	1944.
	TONS.	TONS.
Structurals	150,000	225,000
Bars and rods ..	150,000	222,000
Plates	70,000	82,000
Sheets—black and corrugated.	150,000	183,000
Rails and fish plates.	120,000	149,000
Railway fittings ..	28,000	..
Tinplate	50,000	80,000
Wire	10,000	17,000
Castings	5,000	7,000
Nails	10,000	14,000
Nuts and bolts ..	5,000	29,000
Ordnance	2,000	30,000

New Lines of Production

A very encouraging feature of the expansion, however, was that it covered several new lines of production. Tatas, for instance, started producing acid steel and special steels, notably armour plate, armour-piercing steel and a special steel for the electrodes employed in the welding of armour plate. The plant for manufacturing wheels, tyres and axles was brought into operation on November 1941. Stainless steel for surgical instruments was made for the first time during the war. Considerable progress was also made in stimulating and developing the machine tool industry.

Heavy Military Demand

During the war years, nearly 85 per cent of the available steel in India was earmarked for direct military purposes and the railways and only about 15 per cent went to meet civil demands.

Present Position

The present production capacity of steel is about 1,264,000 tons as below :—

	TONS.
Tatas	850,000
SCOB	350,000
Mysore	40,000
Ishapore	24,000
Total ..	1,264,000

The actual production is, however, much less, due mainly to lack of coal, transport difficulties and labour troubles. In 1945–46, the output of finished steel was only about 900,000 tons and it is not expected greatly to exceed this figure in 1946–47. The present demand for finished steel, however, is estimated at over 1 million tons per annum.

Outlook for 1947

In 1947, it has been decided to allocate an assumed production of 900,000 tons and imports of 150,000 tons as follows :—

	TONS.
Railways	300,000
Industrial maintenance and packing.	150,000
Steel processing industries.	210,000
Government Development Schemes.	80,000
Industrial Development Schemes.	50,000
Exports	10,000
Provinces (small consumers).	250,000
Total ..	1,050,000

Future Demand and Panel's Suggestions to meet it

The Iron and Steel (Major) Panel have come to the conclusion that the future demand of steel would amount to two million tons per annum made up as follows :—

	TONS.
Normal requirements (pre-war).	1,000,000
Agricultural Department ..	455,000
Railway Board (over and above 200,000 tons normal requirements).	300,000
Hydel and other electric schemes.	60,000
Roads	10,000
Provinces	200,000
Total ..	2,025,000

The productive capacity at the end of three to four years is, however, expected to be about 157,000 tons per annum as below :—

	TONS.
Present combined capacity.	1,264,000
Expected increased in capacity at the end of 3 to 4 years.	306,000
Total capacity at the end of 3 to 4 years.	1,570,000

In order to meet the increased demand, the Iron and Steel Panel have recommended the installation of a new plant with a capacity of 500,000 tons per annum rising ultimately to one million tons and, if circumstances warrant it, another plant of the same capacity. The total target of production recommended by the Panel at the end of the first post-war quinquennium is 2½ to 3 million tons.

Questionnaire of the Industrial Planning Committee

A Sub-Committee appointed by the Industrial Planning Committee, which has been set up by the Government of Madras to investigate various problems connected with the planned industrialization of the province, has issued a questionnaire to the public to elicit the views of all those who are interested in the subject. The questions have been so framed as to focus attention on matters on which the Committee considers it essential to assess public opinion. The Sub-Committee desires it to be known that the Industrial Planning Committee is not concerned with cottage industries. As the Committee has to submit its final report within three months, all answers to questions may be sent to Mr. A. S. Naik, I.C.S., Under Secretary to the Government in the Development Department, who is also the Secretary of the Committee, not later than July 20, 1947.

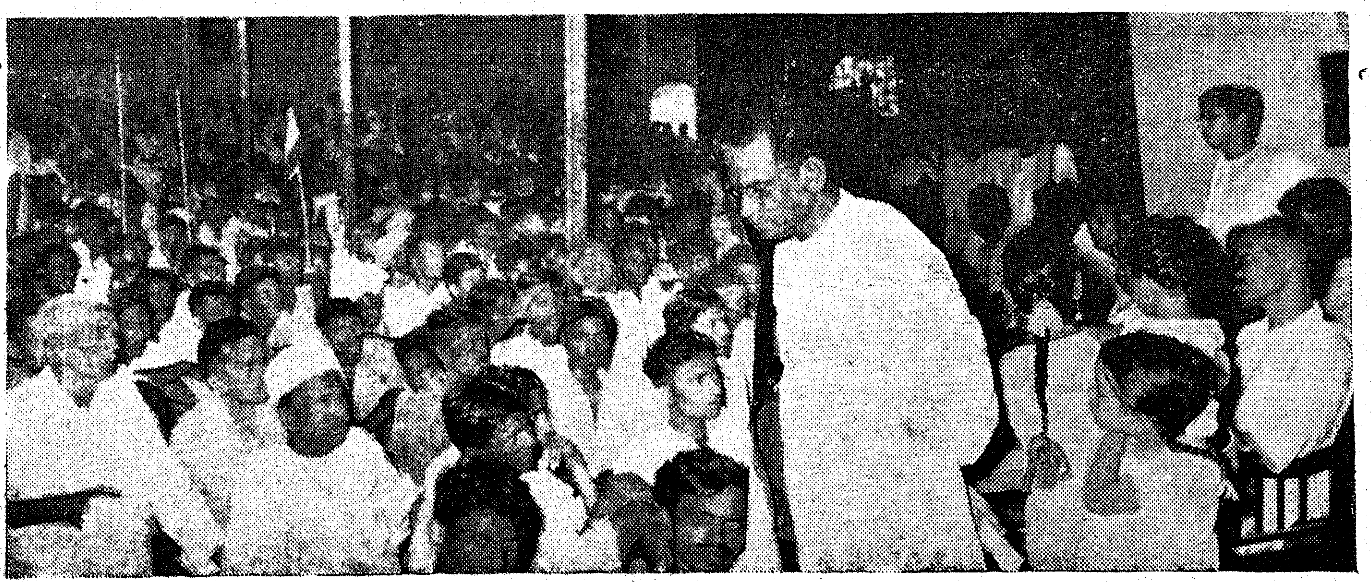
The following is the text of the questionnaire :—

(1) What industries, in your opinion, should be started immediately so as to facilitate the rapid industrialization of this Province ? What are the facilities which are available for the starting of such industries ?

(2) Have you considered the prospects of new industries which could be started and could successfully function in your district ? If you have, please send a note on the nature of such industries and classify them into (i) those that can be started and can begin to operate in less than three years and (ii) those the operation of which will take more than three years.

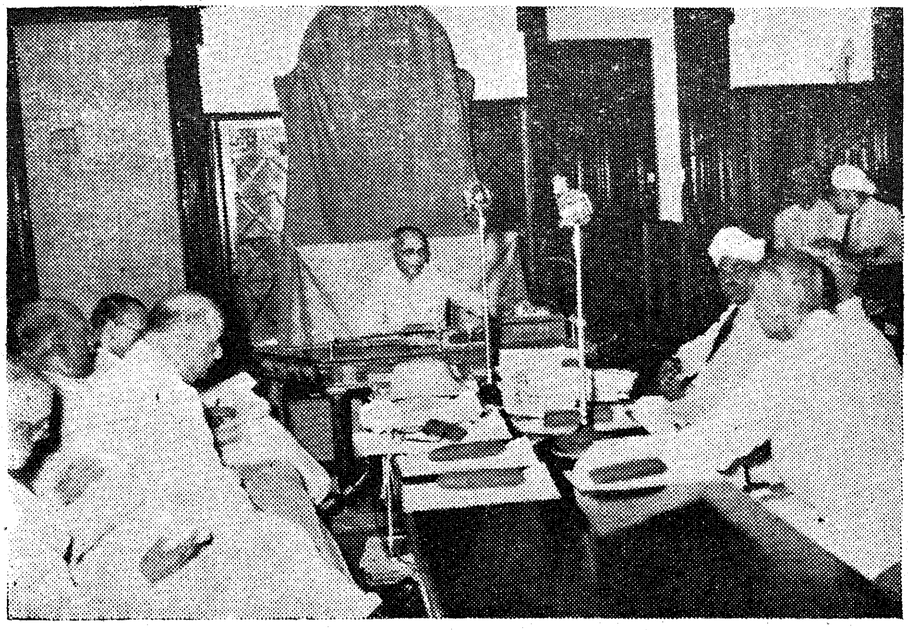
Awakening among Harijans

The Harijan Uplift Minister, Hon'ble Sri V. Kurmayya, recently opened for Harijans the Sri Kanyakaparameswari temple at Gudivada

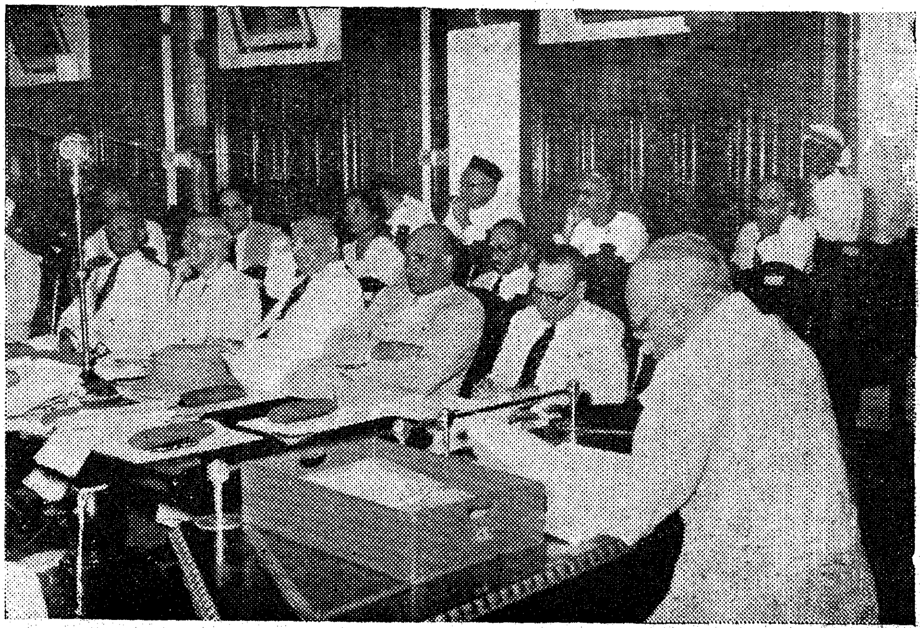


The Hon'ble Sri Daniel Thomas, Minister of Prohibition, inaugurating the 15th Andhra Provincial Adi-Andhra Conference at Gudivada. The Conference was held on 23rd June 1947

Medical and Public Health Conference



The Hon'ble Sri A. B, Shetty presiding over the Conference.



A side view of the Conference

Please refer to the facilities which your district offers for the starting of such industries, such as raw materials, capital, skilled and unskilled labour, power, markets, etc. In the list of new industries that can be started, specify those which may require less than Rupees five lakhs and those which may require more than Rupees five lakhs as capital.

(3) If you are already interested in the management of any existing industry, please say whether you experience any difficulties in the successful working thereof or in expanding it and how, in your opinion, the Government could help you to overcome them.

(4) If you have obtained permission to start a new industry, please say when you expect it to begin functioning and, if you are experiencing delay, the reasons therefor.

(5) What are the mineral resources available in your district? Are they being exploited? If not, give reasons for the failure to exploit them.

(6) What industries, in your opinion, should be completely nationalized? What criteria would you suggest for nationalization of industries? What industries, do you think, should receive State aid and what should be left wholly to private enterprise? Do you favour any sort of Governmental control over all industries irrespective of the fact whether they are State-aided or not.

(7) Besides giving financial aid, in what other ways can the State accelerate the growth of industries? Can you mention specific industries which stand in need of such help and the nature of the help required?

(8) Are you satisfied with the working of the State Aid to Industries Act? Do you suggest any amendments to it? Or, would you prefer the financing of industries to be left to a Finance Corporation? What powers and functions would you suggest for such a Finance Corporation?

(9) Would you advise some system of licensing the starting of industries to ensure proper regional distribution and also to prevent the establishment of bogus enterprises?

(10) Do you favour the constitution of Permanent Regional Industries Boards to be controlled by a Central Board to advise the Government in planning regulation and establishment of industries? Would you have such Boards composed entirely of non-officials or officials or partly of both?

(11) Would you recommend the imposition of a limitation on the dividend which should be paid to investors in joint-stock industrial enterprises?

(12) Do you recommend the sharing of profits, after payment of a limited dividend and after provision for reserves, between capital, management, executive and labour? If so, in what proportions? Please give reasons for your answer.

(13) Do you favour the establishment of Work Councils in all industries, in which representatives of Labour and Executive can take part along with the Management in discussing questions of common interest?

(14) Are you in favour of continuing the present system of Managing Agency, which permits institutional management without requiring personal qualifications?

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 15th June 1947

The Government of Madras have published a Gazette Extraordinary on 9th June 1947 declaring the Madras Labour Union (of workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras) to be unlawful under section 16 of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 (XIV of 1908). The management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, opened the mills on 12th June 1947. The management have given time till 19th June 1947 for resumption of work. Sri T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliyar, strike leader of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mill workers, and Mrs. Anthoni Pillai, wife of the externed President, Madras Labour Union, are under house arrest.

The Government have issued a communiqué advising the workers to resume work and to await the result of the Court of Enquiry.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. Vummudi Ramayya Chetti and Guruswami Chetti to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge) for adjudication.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the managements of the Standard Vacuum Oil Company, Madras, and Caltex (India), Limited, Madras, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge) for adjudication.

The tannery workers of Messrs. Inam & Co., Tiruvottiyur, numbering about 200 struck work on 3rd June 1947 without notice. They resumed work after a few days when the management agreed to reinstate 14 discharged workers.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the managements of the City Motor Service, Limited, Presidency Transport, Limited, and Abraham Bus Transport, Limited, Poonamallee, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge) for adjudication.

The Government have sanctioned the constitution of Industrial Tribunals at Madras, Coimbatore, Madura and Bezwada each with a retired District Judge as its sole member.

On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the President, Coimbatore District Coffee and Tea Supply Workers' Union, Piliankulam, has withdrawn the notice of strike issued by him on 1st May 1947 of the United Coffee Supply Company, Coimbatore.

The workers of the Kumaran Mills, Pudupalayam, Coimbatore, struck work without notice on 31st May 1947, demanding increase of wages of the slubbing tenters and reinstatement of dismissed worker. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the workers resumed work on 2nd June 1947.

The workers of the reeling department of the Pioneer Mills, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, staged a sit-down strike on 4th June 1947 as a protest against the recruitment of 4 new women workers in the department in preference to senior workers. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, intervened and brought about a settlement. The workers resumed work on 5th June 1947.

The workers of the P.S.G. & Sons Charity and Industrial Institute, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, struck work on 12th June 1947 demanding annual increments, provision of co-operative stores and canteens, stoppage of cut in allowance, etc. On the advice of the Commissioner of Labour the workers

have agreed to call off the strike on 17th June 1947.

The workers of Sri Ramalinga Choodambika Mills, Limited, Tiruppur, Coimbatore district, staged a stay-in-strike on 9th June 1947 at 3-30 p.m. as a protest against the maistry's evidence in favour of non-union workers. As the workers would not come to terms, the management declared a lock-out on 11th June 1947 at 5 p.m. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, is trying to bring about a settlement.

The Government have prohibited the continuance of the strike in Sri Palamalai Ranganathar Mills as the dispute was referred for adjudication in G.O. Ms. No. 2379, Development, dated 29th May 1947.

The East Godavari Motor Workers' Union, Cocanada, has issued a strike notice, dated 3rd June 1947, to the Managing Director of Sri Ramadas Motor Transport, Limited, Cocanada, intimating that the workers will go on strike on 21st June 1947 if the interim relief to motor workers fixed by the adjudicator is not raised to Rs. 25. The Commisssioner of Labour has instructed the District Magistrate, East Godavari, and the Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, to advise the workers not to precipitate a strike but to await the final report of the Court of Enquiry.

The Dhanalakshmi Cigar Factory, Virudhunagar, was closed on 3rd June 1947 as the workers refused to make a special type of small cigar at the same rate at which ordinary small cigars were being made. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Madura, the dispute was amicably settled and the factory was reopened on 5th June 1947.

The District Magistrate, Malabar, reports that 275 beedi workers of Ponnani struck work on 26th May 1947 demanding increase of wages and two months' wages as bonus. The Labour Officer, Calicut, and the District Magistrate, Malabar, are trying to bring about a settlement. The report of the Court of Enquiry is expected to be published soon.

The President, West Coast Electric Workers' Union, Chalapuram, has issued a notice of strike, dated 4th June 1947, to Messrs. Chandrie and Co., Madras, intimating that the electric workers of the Company at Calicut, Tellicherry and Cannanore will go on strike from 20th June 1947 if their demands for bonus of 6 months' wages and allowances, stoppage of victimization, etc., are not conceded by the management before 20th June 1947. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice as the demand for bonus has been recommended to Government for inclusion in the adjudication proceedings now in progress and to look into the complaint of victimization.

The Secretaries of the Thanoli Mills Labour Union, Cannanore, have issued a notice of strike, dated 4th June 1947, to the management of the Thanoli Mills, Cannanore, intimating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for 4 months' income as bonus, increase of basic wages, recognition of the Union, provision of provident fund, canteen, etc., are not conceded before 18th June 1947. The Commisssioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice and to await the result of the Court of Enquiry for Timber and Saw Mills.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the West Coast Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Calicut, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri N. D. Krishna Rao, District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar) for adjudication.

The stay-in-strike of the assistant welders of the Scindia Shipyard which commenced on 4th June 1947 ended on 7th June 1947 on the intervention of the Labour Officer, Vizagapatam.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Chittivalsah Jute Mills Co., Ltd., Chittivalsah.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Vizagapatam Sugar and Refinery, Ltd., Anakapalle.

Labour Conditions in Beedi and Tanning Industries

Court of Enquiry Presents its Findings

The following is a summary of the report of the Court of Enquiry into Labour Conditions in Beedi, Cigar, Snuff, Tobacco Curing and Tanning Industries.

Beedi Industry

Madras Province is one of the largest beedi-producing regions in India; the daily output of beedies in the Province is in the order of 3,586 crores. The per capita consumption of beedies in the Province worked out at 202 even in 1941. The industry gives employment to over 90,000 people in the Province of whom approximately 26,600 are women. A vast army of children, nearly 38·6 per cent of the number of adult male workers, are employed in assisting beedi workers.

Apart from abnormal causes of unemployment, the workers are not able to get even 20 days of work per month throughout the year. There is a reserve of unemployed, hanging about the premises of their employers seeking work. Beedi workers get "too old at forty" and their future is a problem of grave import. Welfare activities concerning beedi industry must have a wide scope to include these prematurely old and derelict beedi workers.

The system of paying advances is prevalent everywhere but is of lesser importance at the centres in the West Coast.

Wages are not uniform at all the centres of beedi manufacture. Differences in wages also exist with regard to "sada" and "jadi" beedies. Women are employed in Tinnevelly district for rolling beedies but the majority of women in other districts cut leaves and put ring labels and are paid low wages. Working conditions are extremely unsatisfactory.

Issues.

1. Working hours must be regulated and a maximum of eight hours a day

must be fixed; every Sunday or Friday should be a closed day.

2. Child labour should be prohibited in the beedi industry at any stage and in any form by strictly enforcing the employment of Children Act.

A feasible method of regulating women employment with a view to preventing exploitation and under-payment is to introduce the system of wage slips. Every one of the women home workers should be given a wage slip giving in detail the amount of raw materials supplied, the quantity of work of each category turned out and the wages earned per day. In order to avoid overwork, maximum may be fixed with regard to the number of wrapper leaves that may be cut or to the number of beedies that may be rolled per day. By insisting efficient periodical and surprise checks of the wage slips, conditions of work and payment of wages may be improved.

The Court of Enquiry suggest the following scheme for revision of wages: Instead of a single minimum rate of wages, local minima are better under the prevailing conditions. The enforcement of these local minima will induce reorganization and readjustment in the industry which will pave the way for final standardization of wages in about three to five years.

The present system of wages shall be modified on the following lines :—

(1) The wages for rolling 1,000 beedies in any centre in the Province shall not be less than Re. 1-2-0.

(2) The existing wage-rates ranging from Re. 0-15-0 to under Rs. 1-12-0 in the various centres shall be increased by 25 per cent.

The wages revised on the above line shall be in force so long as the cost of living index does not rise above 300. If the latter rises above 300, allowance must be payable at the rates shown below :—

Allowance per rupee of earnings.

Index number—

Up to 300—Nil.
300 to 325—One anna.
325 to 350—Two annas.
350 to 375—Three annas.
375 to 400—Four annas.

Cigar Industry

The industry provides employment to more than 12,000 workers and 50,000 souls are depending on this industry. Though the industry is widely diffused all over the Province, there is also a degree of concentration in about half at dozen places, viz., Trichinopoly, Dindigul, Badagara, Rajahmundry, Ellore and Madras.

Child labour is a predominant evil in this industry. Young boys are employed to make inner fillers and to split tobacco while girls are most employed to label and paste rings round the cigars.

Normally a cigar worker gets employment for about 20 days in a month.

(1) Working hours must be regulated and a maximum of eight hours a day must be fixed; every Sunday should be a closed day.

(2) Children under fifteen must be strictly prohibited from working in the cigar industry at any stage and in any form.

(3) The Provisions of the Non-Power Factories Bill should be made applicable to the cigar workshops. That is the only sure remedy for unsatisfactory conditions.

(4) Immediate prohibition of giving or receiving advances is a necessity.

A uniform rate of increase in the wages for the different brands is not a feasible proposition. Increase in the wages there must be in order to satisfy the subsistence requirements of the workers; but the rate of increase in the case of non-duty paid inferior cheroots will have to be relatively less than that in the case of duty-paid cheroots or superior cigars. If this argument is accepted, uniform increase in the wages or standardization of wages will not be possible. Therefore fixation of minimum wage in consonance with the cost of living accompanied by higher rates of wages for superior brands should be the basic principle on which the structure of wages must be built. An outline of the scheme satisfying all the points raised in the foregoing paragraphs may now be laid down: (i) in respect of non-duty-paid country cheroots, wages in any place in the Province, shall not fall below Re. 1-4-0 per 1,000. There shall be an increase of 25 per cent over the wages prevailing in various centres in January 1947; (ii) with regard to duty-paid cheroots or cigars a progressive rate of increase in the wages, as indicated below, shall be enforced :—

Wage rates in January 1947.	Percentage of increase recommended
From Rs. 1-8-0 upto Rs. 3 ..	20
Above Rs. 3 upto Rs. 5 ..	25
Above Rs. 5 upto Rs. 10 ..	30
Above Rs. 10	33⅓

Besides the enforcement of the above rates of wages, it is essential that the workers should be assured of regular employment for 26 days in a month. The manufacturers must regulate their production in such a manner as to guarantee a minimum of 26 days' work in a month; to this end, voluntary agreement must be made to the effect that the employers should pay a sum of Re. 1 per day for the period during which they are not able to provide work to their permanent workers.

Dearness allowance shall be paid as per the following schedule if the cost of living index goes above 300 :—

Allowance per rupee of earnings.

Index number—

Up to 300—Nil.
300 to 325—One anna.
325 to 350—Two annas.
350 to 375—Three annas.
375 to 400—Four annas.

Snuff Industry

In the last three years, the average monthly consumption of tobacco for the manufacture of snuff has been 2.18, 2.64 and 2.89 lakhs of lb., respectively. The total quantity of snuff consumed within the province in 1938–39 was 23 lakhs of lb. All the workshops will be employing about 1,100 workers. The women and boys employed may be approximately 25 per cent of the number of male adults. Thus the snuff industry gives employment to about 1,375 workers of both sexes. Apart from these bigger and smaller establishments, there are countless snuff workshops run as a subsidiary occupation by the betel or other shopkeepers. All these people are self-employed and produce small quantities of snuff to meet the local demand in the villages and hamlets where they happen to own the shops. Out of the total estimated annual production of 1,332,344 lb. in 1945-46, more than 10.24 lakhs of lb. of snuff is produced in Madras City, showing the concentration of over 75 per cent of the production in the province in the metropolis itself.

Wherever women are employed, the provisions of the Factories Act or the recently introduced Non-Power Factories Bill should be strictly applied; the women should be made permanent workers and they should be enabled to enjoy the Maternity Benefits Act; provision must also be made for the proper care of their children during the hours of their work. The working conditions in all snuff workshops must be regulated by application and the strict enforcement of the provisions of the recently introduced Non-Power

Factories Bill. The system of giving advances to workers must be entirely prohibited.

The wages in Madras City have risen from three and half annas in 1939 to eight annas per viss in 1947. For four years between 1943 and 1946, they have stayed at six annas per viss, or only 170 per cent of the pre-war level. During those years, the cost of living index had gone up to 250. Even at present the wages are only 228·5 per cent of the pre-war wages, while the cost of living index stands above 260. In view of the fact that the workers have been receiving disproportionately low wages for four of the worst war years, all the permanent workers must be given one month bonus and those who have put in not less than three years of service shall be paid three months' bonus.

The wages shall be fixed at not less than ten annas per viss throughout the province.

The employers shall give to each worker not less than three visses per day for 26 days in a month, failing which, for each workless day, the employer shall pay one rupee to each of the permanent workers. This is a recommendation the Court is forced to make with a view to preserving industrial peace.

The wages for women shall be paid at not less than the rates shown below :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Stripping one viss tobacco.	0	1	6
Cutting one viss tobacco.	0	0	6
Roasting	0	3	0

Dearness allowance shall be payable to both men and women workers, if the cost of living index goes above 300, according to the following schedule :—

Allowance per rupee of earnings—
Index number—
Up to 300—Nil.
300 to 325—One anna.
325 to 350—Two annas.
350 to 375—Three annas.
375 to 400—Four annas.

Tobacco-Curing and Grading Industry

Concentration of industry.—Tobacco-handling industry shows an extreme degree of concentration in Guntur district. There are about 366 units in Guntur town and about 1,600 in the whole district. Next in importance is the East Godavari district where the industry has agglomerated around Rajahmundry and Anaparti, where the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company, Limited, have a re-drying plant.

Structure of industry.—The most remarkable feature of this industry is its seasonal character giving employment for a period varying from five to eight months in accordance with the nature of the annual crop. Except for the packing, the whole industry depends upon women labour, about 95 per cent of the total number of workers being women. The workers are directly recruited by the management, at the commencement of each season, the women maistries as well as workers living in the vicinity usually return to work in their respective factories ; there is no need for the management to send intimation to the workers who always know when the factories would resume work.

Seven out of the ten tobacco-handling and re-drying factories which come under the operation of the Factories Act are situated in Guntur and one each at Chirala, Vetapalam and Anaparti. All the other establishments do not use any sort of power but vary widely in size. The smallest work house employs about 40 workers whereas the larger ones more than 400 workers ; however, at present, whatever be their size, none of them comes under any system of effective regulation by the Government.

With the application of the Non-Power Factory Act, working conditions will get standardized all over the Province. However, mention must be made about the need for the betterment of life of the workers by an over-all encouragement of welfare activities. The concentration of the industry in certain centres like Guntur and Chilakalurpet will offer great opportunities for the establishment of special co-operative societies for the workers of this industry. Women workers being naturally more prudent, thrift societies will have a more cogenial atmosphere to thrive. Trade Union movement will have to be carefully fostered to suit the special requirements of women workers. At the same time, the interest of the men workers employed in packing, weighing and other sections must be safeguarded by suitable regulations. Men Workers' Unions cannot afford to cut themselves adrift from Women Workers' Unions. Co-ordination of both the types of Workers' Unions with a view to intimate merging together of their interests should be the prime objective of the trade union movement in this industry. The foregoing measures will solve all the problems of the industry except that of wages.

After a careful consideration, the following scheme for the revision of wages is recommended :—

(1) Wherever time wages are paid, the wage rates obtaining in the various centres in January 1947 shall be enhanced by 25 per cent subject to the condition that at no centre wages per day shall fall below Re. 1.

(2) Wherever strippers are paid piece-rates, they shall be paid at not less than annas two per lb. of stems stripped.

(3) Men workers working individually or in groups shall be paid 25 per cent above the rates which were prevailing in January 1947.

At present, in certain firms like the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company, Limited, wages are supplemented by separate dearness allowance. In all these cases, the daily earnings of workers (consisting of basic wages plus dearness allowance) in January 1947 shall be raised by 25 per cent. This increment in earnings has been awarded with due regard to the enhanced cost of living of the present day. No separate dearness allowance need be paid in addition to the wages revised on the above principles unless the cost of living index rises above 300.

Dearness allowance shall be payable to both men and women workers, if the cost of living index goes above 300, according to the following schedule :—

Allowance per rupee of earnings—
Index Number—
Up to 300—Nil.
300 to 325—One anna.
325 to 350—Two annas.
350 to 375—Three annas.
375 to 400—Four annas.

Tanning Industry

Tanning industry is one of the biggest industries in the Province, comparable with handloom weaving (1) in its wide distribution over the whole Province from Vizianagaram in the North to Melapalayam in the South, (2) in its production of one of the necessaries of life and (3) in its general lack of driven machinery. It is not easy to compute the amount of capital invested in this industry but it will well exceed two crores of rupees. Workers directly employed in the various processes of tanning, number more than 20,000 and those indirectly employed more than 10,000. That these people are chiefly drawn from the proposed classes adds interest to this figure.

The tanning industry is concentrated in Ellore-Bezwada region, North Arcot district, the environs of Madras City, Erode-Coimbatore region and Trichinopoly-Dindigul region. There are about 12 different main processes, apart from incidental ones, which are grouped into four grades and paid different rates of wages, according to the nature of work. Wages are piece-rated and "pieces" vary with centres as well as tanneries and vary in the case of cow-hides, buff-hides and skins. Differential rates in dearness allowance, the practice of gang-work in certain centres the custom of paying attendance allowance in some tanneries, the presence of time-rated women workers and adolescents, and the need for doing minor and subsidiary processes paid on piece-rate basis—all these contribute to make the wages system in the tanneries extremely complex and baffling.

As the tanneries have been brought under the operation of the Factories Act as early as February 1942, it may suffice to point out that, with regard to the improvement of the working conditions, ventilation and sanitation, the need for a rigorous enforcement of all the provisions of the Act is urgent. However a few points merit special observation—

(1) Regarding the working hours, the tanneries should be kept open only for eight hours. By fixing the hours of work when tanneries may be kept open, a ceiling is put to the hours of work; the present day evil of overwork in seasons of peak production will be avoided.

(2) The Madras Maternity Benefit Act must be strictly enforced in all the tanneries employing women. Employment of women, casually instead of on monthly salary basis with benefits as well as additional amenities due to them by virtue of their sex, must be prevented.

(3) Weekly holidays must be granted.

(4) Compensation for accidents must be paid according to the provisions of the Act. All the tanneries should be brought under the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act by notifying this industry in the schedule to the Act.

(5) The employers should supply rubber shoes and rubber gloves to all the workers in the lime yard and sullar work and rubber apron sheets to all workers, performing defleshing, deliming and scudding operations.

(6) Special bath-rooms should be provided in every tannery for workers; gingelly oil or groundnut oil for lime workers and soaps for all the workers must be freely supplied.

(7) Water for drinking, cooking, washing and bathing must be supplied to workers within their colonies (residential area), without being forced to go, as at present, to the tannery wells for taking water. Under no circumstances, the facilities provided for water-supply should be curtailed or stopped.

(8) Registered Workers' Unions must be recognised by the employers and two representatives of the Union must enjoy the right to represent to the management the grievances of the workers.

(9) The workers must be granted 10 days casual leave with pay every year.

It will be good for both industry and the workers if tanners voluntarily observe the following conditions for the provision of regular employment.

(1) To provide every day at least one unit of work in default thereof to the wages for one unit every day to each permanent worker; these sums must not be debited to the workers' account nor recovered from them at any later date.

(2) To give not less than 560 units of work or pay the wages for 560 units of work to each of their workers in every calendar year.

In order to minimise absenteeism, a system of bonus payment based on attendance as shown hereunder is necessary:—

Bonus Scheme

Number of working days attended in half year and amount of bonus in terms of average monthly earnings by the workers—

140 days and more—$\frac{3}{4}$.
135 to 139 days—$\frac{1}{2}$.
130 to 134 days—$\frac{1}{4}$.
Less than 130 days—Nil.

The bonus according to the above scheme shall be paid at the end of every half year.

Although in a few tanneries, there is some degree of specialization among workers, some of them doing only tana work, others unhairing and yet others fleshing, it is generally found that the workers are transferred from one section to another according to the volume of work available. Smoothening and straightening of the leather in its final stages of tanning call for hard manual labour and generally the new-comers are assigned this job. Defleshing is a skilled work and wrong handling of the knife will irretrievably spoil the leather. Work in the lime-yard is injurious to health. Although these little differences are found, the various types of work need not on that scope be paid differential rates. If the tana work is hard manual labour, liming is injurious and defleshing is expert labour. Again the fact that there exists only a distinction without difference is clearly proved by the custom of the tanners in giving any kind of work according to the requirements of the day. In view of the above considerations, the wages of male workers shall be fixed at 9 annas for every unit done in a day in all the tanneries in the province. No distinction shall exist between the wages paid for the first and subsequent units done in a day.

In such factories as Chrome Leather Company and Gordon Woodroffe Leather Manufacturing Company, Limited, whenever time wages are paid, the wages obtaining in January 1947 shall be raised by 12½ per cent.

The adolescent workers shall be paid Rs. 15 per mensem. The wages paid for turning the skins or hides in the lime pits, etc., shall be As. 1–6 per unit of work. The women workers shall be paid Rs. 15 per mensem or As. 14 per day if casually employed.

All the workers—men, women and adolescents—shall be paid a minimum dearness allowance of Rs. 16 per mensem. This rate of dearness allowance is the lowest rate allowed by the Government and it shall be altered with any alterations made by the Government.

Wherever a higher rate of dearness allowance is being paid at the present time, it shall be continued without any alteration unless there is any change in the rate of dearness allowance paid by the Government.

General Recommendations

(1) The Employment of Children Act, at least after the Non-Power Factory Bill is passed, must be strictly enforced.

(2) The Payment of Wages Act must be applied to all the five industries and advance of wages, if permitted at all, should be limited to an amount equivalent to the wages earned by the employed person during the preceding two calendar months or if the worker has not been employed for that period, twice the wages he is likely to earn during the subsequent calendar month.

(3) The Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1936, should be applied to all the five industries.

(4) The Workmen's Compensation Act must be forthwith applied to all the five industries.

(5) In every establishment, a register in the prescribed form should be maintained showing the names of the workers, their hours of work and the nature of their respective appointments. The wage-roll must be kept separately from the attendance register and for all wages of Rs. 20 or more stamped receipts must be obtained.

(6) Every establishment must prominently display a copy of its standing orders, terms of employment, procedure for disciplinary action and the framing of charges, fine list, if any, and particulars regarding the amount in the fine fund.

(7) Every employer should supply all the appliances and instruments along with raw materials to every worker; for example, in the beedi industry, the trays in which tobacco and beedies are kept, scissors, thread, etc.

(8) In order to improve the health and safety of the workers, the workers must be provided with clean mats to squat on in the beedi, cigar, snuff and tobacco-grading industries and with rubber chappals, gloves, and apron-sheets in the tanning industry.

Industrial Home Work

Regulation on industrial home work in the beedi industry: The only effective method of eliminating sweating is to fix the wages and enforce strictly their payment. For this purpose, every manufacturer, commission agent or middleman should be required to keep a register containing the name and address of every female worker employed. The rate of wages for making 1,000 beedies must be affixed permanently in the waiting room or the rooms where the raw materials are delivered to workers and the finished beedis are received.

When a woman worker receives work to be done at home, a coupon or a book with a counterfoil attached should be issued at the same time to that person, stating the nature and quantity of the work, the date on which it is given out, the rate of wages applicable to the given work. At the time of delivering the finished beedis, an entry should be made on the coupon or in the book, stating the date of delivery, the amount of the remuneration earned by the worker and the various deductions made and also the net amount paid or to be paid to the worker. The particulars entered on the coupon should be copied exactly on the counterfoil and the wages register, which must be kept for not less than a year by the manufacturer and placed by him at the disposal of the inspector at any time.

Industrial home work shall be confined to women workers only.

Minimum Wages

Differential Minima.—Although a minimum wage-rate for the entire province has been fixed for each of the five industries in question, differences in wages will exist from region to region. Differential wages have been awarded to adolescents or 'young persons' and women in the tanning industry. But no distinction has been made between men and women workers in the beedi industry because the wages paid are piece-rates.

Wages for Apprentices

The worship of the principle of equality should not, however, blind the law-maker to the real differences in productivity existing among workers, especially between the master-craftsman and the apprentice. The nature of work in the five industries is not absolutely unskilled but semi-skilled. Experience counts not only in the quantity but also in the quality of the work done.

In the case of inexperienced workers and apprentices just learning the trade, a period of three to six months must be fixed in all the five industries during which wage-rates lower than those for experienced workers may be paid. This is necessary to prevent the employment of workers at lower rates after they have gained adequate experience. In this period so fixed, the rate of wage paid to the inexperienced should not fall below half of the minimum wage of an adult worker.

Industrial Peace-Trade Boards

The Court recommends the constitution of a Trade Board for every trade and in every district; it must consist of two representatives of employers and two of the workers and must be presided over by a Government nominee who must be a neutral person. The Chairman who is a disinterested member can hold the balance even between the workers and the employers. All matters relating to working conditions, wages, welfare activities and interpretation of existing agreements and contracts may be referred to this Trade Board by the workers' or employers' representatives. After a careful examination of all the aspects of the disputed points, the Board shall, by a majority vote, give a decision which must be made final and binding on all the parties to the industrieal dispute. From the time a dispute is referred to, up to the time the award is given, by the Board, the *status quo* in the trade must be maintained. This kind of machinery is urgently required and the Court recommends its constitution at an early date. A word may be added regarding the need for the co-ordination of the work of the various District Trade Boards. At the outset it may be admitted that a considerable measure of uniformity will be achieved by the enactment of the Madras Non-Power Factories Bill and the enforcement of the minimum wages awarded in this report. Most of the points raised in the District Trade Board will be of only local significance. As regards matters calling for uniformity, the Minister concerned and the Commissioner of Labour can frame rules to suit the needs from time to time. To illustrate, for the provision of regular employment in these industries to avoid labour unrest, the Government may well frame necessary measures that may be applied throughout the province. The establishment of these Trade Boards will in no way deprive the Government of their right to appoint Adjudicators or Arbitration Tribunals. Until these industries develop their organizations a Trade Board vested with powers to give final and binding decisions is a desideratum.

Seasonal Industries

The seasonal factories must be made responsible for the maintenance in minimum comfort of their workers in the off-season. Labour employed in this industry must be made regular and non-migratory, stabilization of employment conditions are as urgent as, if not more than, improvement of wage-rates, not only in tobacco grading but also in the other four industries.

Social Insurance

For the present, early measures must be taken to provide housing, education and medical facilities on a liberal scale to workers in the five industries; schemes for these purposes must be financed from funds contributed equally by the employers and the Government. The workers' wages are too low at present to enable them to make any contribution of their own. However, eventually they

(*Continued on page 25*)

Conditions of Labour in Textile Mills

The following is a summary of the report of the Court of Enquiry to enquire into the conditions of labour in the textile mills in Madras :—

In July 1946, the Government appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as a Court of Enquiry to enquire into the conditions of Labour in the textile mills of the Province. As the final report of the Court of Enquiry was likely to be delayed in view of the elaborate enquiries which the Court had to undertake, the Government considered that the question of interim relief should be referred for adjudication and accordingly referred that issue to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication. He submitted his report in December 1946 and the award was enforced on the parties. The Industrial Disputes Act came into force on 1st April 1947. In April 1947, the Government considered that the recommendations of the Court of Enquiry should be enforced on the parties but as this could not be done unless the dispute was referred for adjudication, the Government constituted an Industrial Tribunal consisting of Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, for adjudication of the various issues in the dispute between the workers and management of all the textile mills in the Province. After enquiry the tribunal has submitted its award. The following are the recommendations in the award :—

(1) *Wages.*—(*a*) The minimum wages for a worker in any textile mill in the Province should be Rs. 26 for a month of 26 days, i.e., one rupee per day.

(*b*) Dearness allowance should be paid at three annas per point on the cost of living index in the case of the mills in Coimbatore district, Madura, Tuticorin, Vikramasingapuram and Madras. In the case of other mills the rate of dearness allowance may be two and half annas per point. The cost of living index figure should be the same as fixed by the Government for Madras City. When payment is made in a month the cost of living index figure for the previous month should be the criterion for determining dearness allowance.

(*c*) The tribunal has made special recommendations in the case of small weaving and spinning mills with 6,000 spindles and less.

(*d*) The rates of wages for all classes of workers should be settled with Rs. 26 as the minimum wage, with reference to the nature of the work, the responsibility involved in it and the strain or work-load. For this purpose a Wage Board and a Standardisation Committee should be set up. If a minimum wage is fixed by legislation and if that minimum wage is higher than the wage allowed by this report the whole structure of wages will have to be revised.

(*e*) When the wages are revised a part of the wages above Rs. 26 may be made dependent on production.

(*f*) Attendance may be made less irregular by the payment of a sort of attendance bonus or an extra payment for regular attendance.

(*g*) Women workers should be paid the same wages as men in all textile mills, and if for waste picking a woman has to be employed, she must be paid Rs. 26 the minimum wage.

(2) *Prohibition of the employment of boys and girls.*—The Government may prohibit the employment of boys and girls below 17 years of age by legislation. Boys and adolescents should be paid the minimum wage of Rs. 26 per mensem with dearness allowance applicable to the area.

(3) *Leave.*—The leave of 10 days for adult workers or of fourteen days for child workers provided by section 49-B (1) of the Factories Act should be continuous. In addition, the workers should be allowed festival holidays for seven days in the year and absence for a period of seven days in a year shall be treated as leave on loss of pay and shall not entail discharge or dismissal. The tribunal has left to the discretion of the trade unions to address the Government for raising the statutory leave of ten days to fifteen by legislation.

(4) *Multiple shifts.*—Ordinarily there should not be more than two straight shifts of eight hours each. The night shift workers should be paid 1¼ of the wages paid to day workers.

(5) *Bonus.*—Bonus should be linked to the dividend declared, that is, the same percentage as dividend declared should be made available to the workers for payment as bonus. All workers who are in service on the date of declaration of dividend shall be entitled to bonus but no one who was absent for more than sixty days in the year (excluding leave and holidays) shall be entitled to bonus. Distribution of bonus will be pro rata that is rateable to the length of service in the year. Payment of bonus ought not to depend upon matters such as good conduct, production, etc.

(6) *Provident fund.*—Provident fund must be introduced by all mills of more than five years standing. The rate of contribution should not be less than one rupee per mensem by the worker and one rupee by the management. Interest may be calculated and added at the end of every half year or the year. Payment of the amount should not depend upon either good conduct of the worker or the discretion of the employer. It is left to the discretion of the Government to insist on a contribution of six and one-fourth per cent. The Commissioner of Labour should frame rules for the maintenance of provident fund. The opening of a gratuity fund is also recommended.

(7) *Dismissal and discharge of workers.*—No worker can be dismissed or discharged without proper enquiry, without giving notice to the worker concerned of the charge framed against him, and without getting the explanation of the worker in writing.

(8) *Staff.*—No clerk should be started on a pay of less than Rs. 30 per mensem and in the manager's office the pay of the clerks should not be less than Rs. 35 per mensem. The grades and scales of pay should be so arranged that after a service of 20 years every one should reach at least Rs. 85. After crossing an efficiency bar, the members of the staff should be allowed to reach Rs. 120 per mensem. These recommendations should not affect the existing scales of pay in the B & C Mills, the Madura Mills at Madura, Vikramasingapuram and Tuticorin and the mills at Mettur, Salem and Trichinopoly. Standing orders should be framed for the members of the staff, providing for leave of 28 days after one year's service, for contributing to the provident fund at 6¼ per cent, and for payment of gratuity to those who have served for five years at half of a month's salary for each year of service.

(9) The interim relief recommended by the adjudicator should be paid by all mills from 1st October 1946 except those which were exempted. The reliefs given in this award and all other recommendations in the award shall be given effect to from 1st April 1947.

(10) All workers shall, after one year's service, get the privileges of permanency.

(11) The total emoluments of any worker in any mill should not be reduced from what it was on 1st April 1947.

(12) In the case of piece rate workers, the interim relief awarded should be merged with the basic wage. The piece rates may be revised completely so as to avoid confusion. The wage board may pay particular attention to the revision of piece rates.

(13) Women Welfare Officers should be appointed in every mill where there are more than 300 women workers.

(14) Workers' committees should be formed without any delay.

2. The Tribunal has also made the following recommendations :—

(1) Setting up of a machinery for determining the cost of living index.

(2) There should be badils or substitutes at all times to take the place of absentees. For this purpose the Mills may keep a leave reserve of ten per cent of the workers and they may work on charkas when they have no work.

(3) When anybody is permitted to start a mill, the licence may be subject to the condition that provision is made for houses to workers.

(4) If there are about ten thousand workers in any place the mill or mills should maintain a decent hospital.

(5) The Government may compel mills which have built large reserves to provide schools and hospitals attached to them. The textile mills should provide for the technical education of the workers and their children.

(6) The Co-operative department may use their good offices to make the co-operative societies attached to the mills educative institutions in the art of co-operation.

(7) When a bonus of five months' wages was paid to the workers at Coimbatore, one month's wages or some part of it is reported to have been taken away from the workers for the purpose of labour propaganda or labour unions. An enquiry should be made and if the report is found to be true, the Union or Unions should be directed to pay back the amount on pain of disaffiliation.

(8) None of the Inspectors of Factories in this Province possesses textile engineering qualifications. At least two of the Inspectors must possess these qualifications. Two or three Inspectors may be deputed in turns to study the Bedeaux system of testing fatigue for a period of about six months.

(9) Reorganization of the Labour department in the B. & C. Mills and a change of attitude on the part of the Madras Labour Union will do a good deal in promoting peace in Madras. The mills in other centres also may appoint Labour Officers. The South India Mill Owners' Association may appoint one Labour Officer for Coimbatore, one for Singanallur, one for Peelamedu and another for Udumalpet and Tiruppur. To save time, the Government may appoint such officers in the first instance and gradually make it compulsory for each mill or group of mills to employ a labour Welfare officer. The Labour Officer proposed for Coimbatore may serve as a sort of Labour Exchange to find employment for the large body of men and women who were removed from service from November 1946 so that all of them may be absorbed into one or other of the mills. The Labour Officer should find employment in other mills for workers who are rightly dismissed.

(10) There had been a number of dismissals in the Kaleeswara Mills, Coimbatore, numbering about 300. Their cases should be enquired into and an endeavour made to get the men work in that mill or some other mill.

(11) Every endeavour should be made to supply a larger quantity of yarn to the weaving mills, by increasing the spindles wherever provision has already been made.

(12) To facilitate the mixing of cotton, the Controllers appointed by the Government may be asked to attend to the mixing of cotton and to see that the yarn is of standard strength.

(13) To relieve unemployment when machinery is replaced, charkas may be purchased by the mills and kept in some suitable place so that the workers may be asked to spin on the charkas at the same rates of wages paid to them.

(14) In the case of unreasonable strikes, if the Government on the report of an officer or a Board of Conciliation or of an Industrial Tribunal arrive at the conclusion that there was no justification for the strike and if the workers do not go to work within fifteen days or a month, then the employer should be allowed to recruit fresh labour.

(15) The sections of the Act relating to strikes and lock-outs may be amended so that the management may not refuse to take back any worker when he returns to work.

3. The Government generally agree with the recommendations of the Industrial Tribunal.

(*Continued from page* 9)

by insect pests in parts of the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore and South Kanara.

The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 90 per cent of the normal as against 82 per cent in the season and crop report of the previous year. On this basis, the total yield is estimated at 4,827,000 tons of cleaned rice as against 3,827,000 tons estimated in the final forecast of the previous year, representing an increase of 26·1 per cent.

The controlled wholesale price of paddy II sort per imperial maund of 82-2/7 lb. in surplus centres on 8th February 1947 was Rs. 5–14–0 in Trichinopoly, Rs. 5–12–8 in Cocanada, Rajahmundry, Ellore, Bezwada, Masulipatam, Guntur, and Nellore and Rs. 5–11–5 in Cuddalore, Kumbakonam and Negapatam. The average wholesale price of paddy II sort per imperial maund of 82-2/7 lb. on the same date for non-surplus centres was Rs. 7–3–0 in Virudunagar, Rs. 6–9–0 in Mangalore, Rs. 6–8–0 in Madura and Rs. 6–3–0 in Tinnevelly.

(*Continued from page* 23)

must be made to contribute their share to this fund. In all important centres of these industries, the local boards should grant sites for the construction of workers' tenements and provide light, water and educational facilities. Towards the construction of schools, houses, etc., the employers must be required to contribute a certain percentage of expenditure that would be incurred.

Provident Fund

A compulsory scheme of Provident Fund should be instituted in all the five industries. The workers should pay at the rate of one anna per rupee of their monthly earnings and the employers should pay an equal amount.

Industrial Tribunal's Recommendations

The Industrial Tribunal constituted for the adjudication of the various issues in the disputes between the workers and managements of the textile mills in the Province has made the following recommendations in respect of the individual mills mentioned below :—

Mettur Industries—

1. The Workers' Union shall be recognized.

2. A general demand for reinstatement of all dismissed workers cannot be considered. Individual demands from workers shall be enquired into and disposed of. All dismissals should be preceded by a proper enquiry.

3. The first instalment of bonus paid in January 1946 should be included in the bonus of five months' wages agreed to by the workers and the management.

4. Promotions should be made both on account of seniority and efficiency.

5. Wages need not be paid for the stoppage of work in February 1946.

6. Contract labour should, as far as possible, be avoided.

7. A hospital of moderate size should be constructed and also a maternity ward with two beds for the present. A woman Labour Welfare Officer should be appointed.

8. Wages need not be paid for the period of lock-out in June 1946 as the workers were responsible for it.

9. Wages must be paid to piece-rate workers during festival holidays.

10. No wages need be paid for the period of the strike from 15th February to 2nd May 1947.

Kothandaram Spinning Mill—

1. Interim relief should be paid with effect from 1st October 1946.

2. Workers are not entitled to any pay for the period of strike from 22nd March to 7th May 1947.

3. The workers are entitled to the minimum wage of Rs. 26 per mensem from 1st April 1947 and dearness allowance at not less than two and a half annas on the basis of the Madras Cost of Living index.

Commonwealth Trust Company, Limited, Cannanore—

1. Bonus is payable to all employees who were in service on 30th September 1946 irrespective of the length of service, and should be paid pro-rata according to the length of service.

2. No wages need be paid for the period of strike.

Raja Mills—

The interim relief and other recommendations so far as the Rajah Mills are concerned will come into force only from 4th May 1947 when the strike ended.

Kothandaram Weaving Mill—

Three months' wages should be paid as bonus for the year 1946.

Madura Mills Company, Limited, Vikramasingapuram—

1. The method of recruiting new hands must be left to the management or to the labour exchange when one is established.

2. The management cannot be compelled to pay the newly recognized labour unions any amount towards the labour welfare fund.

3. The management should introduce provident fund and the contribution should be $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

4. The management of the canteens may be taken over by the management of the mills.

Madura Mills Company, Limited, Tuticorin—

The recommendations in respect of the mill at Vikramasingapuram are applicable to this mill also. The workers are not entitled for wages for the period of strike.

Ramachandra Spinning Mill—

Wages and dearness allowance should be paid on the rates recommended for all the other textile mills after the expiry of one year from the date of the District Judge's award.

Suryanarayana Spinning Mills—

The mill is exempted from all other recommendations except the payment of minimum wage.

Thirumagal Mills, Gudiyattam—

1. The union should be recognized within a period of three months provided the relations between the management and the union improve.

2. A small dispensary with a Sub-Assistant Surgeon, in addition to the compounder now employed, should be provided.

3. The dismissal of Muniswami and Krishnaswami was quite proper and they are not fit for re-employment.

Mahalakshmi Mills, Pasumalai—

1. Periaswami may be taken back if he tenders an apology within a month. If he does not tender an apology the management may hold an enquiry and pass orders. The dismissal of Mokkaswamy, Manikkam, Ponnian Gounder and Virumandy was proper.

2. Wages need not be paid for the period of strike from 28th January to 13th March 1947.

3. The period of strike should be treated as leave without allowances, i.e., it shall not entail loss of any privileges with regard to leave or gratuity earned by the workers up to the date of strike. The bonus to which they are entitled shall not be affected by their absence during the period of strike.

4. Interim relief should be paid from 1st October 1946.

The Government agree with the recommendations of the Industrial Tribunal.

Schemes for the Development of the Co-operative Movement

In pursuance of the resolutions on the recommendations of the All-India Planning Committee on Co-operation passed by the Seventh All-India Co-operative Conference and the Fifteenth Co-operative Registrar's Conference held at Madras last month, the Madras Government have now under their active consideration several schemes for re-organizing the Co-operative Department and developing the co-operative movement in this province. Such proposals involve the provision of a liberal measure of state-aid. Government consider that co-operation as a democratic method of relieving economic distress and of providing economic

needs, credit and otherwise, deserves their hearty and wholehearted support.

Audit and Administration.

It has long been felt that the staff for Audit and Administration should be separated. The Vijayaraghavachariar Committee on Co-operation in 1940 and the fifteenth Registrars' Conference were of opinion that this should be done. Government are actively considering a comprehensive proposal to separate audit from general administration. The proposal would be to have a completely separate audit staff independent from the administrative charge but both working under the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Rural Banks.

There are to-day about 11,000 agricultural co-operative credit societies with unlimited liability. While unlimited liability has been popular and the societies are working quite efficiently in some portions of the Province, in others, the societies have not thrived and are practically doing no business. Some of the reasons for this failure are small areas of operation, lack of paid staff, reluctance on the part of well-to-do people to join societies on unlimited liability and above all insufficient credit facilities. In order to remedy these, it is suggested that Rural Banks be formed with areas of jurisdiction covering 4 or 5 villages, which will be organized on a limited liability basis and will extend to villages all the types of credit facilities which are now being given by urban banks to people who live in towns. It is hoped that such institutions will lend not only on immovable property and pro-notes but also on gold and produce. They will inculcate among villagers the habit of putting their money into current account and drawing money by cheques. They will have much larger and more suitable buildings than the small unlimited liability village credit societies. They will probably attract deposits at low rates of interest, thereby ensuring cheap loans to their constituents. Rural Banks with a much larger turnover than the present village credit societies will generally be able to employ well-trained wholetime staff. Government have instructed the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to start such banks in certain selected areas. Where trained non-official candidates are not available for the staff of the Banks, the Government are considering the question of appointing suitable departmental officers for the time being as Secretaries, etc.

Cattle Breeding and Milk Supply.

In order to promote the cattle wealth of the province, Government feel that Co-operative Milk Supply unions and selected societies should be encouraged through their members to improve the breed of their cattle and for this purpose a scheme for the supply of breeding bulls to such societies is under the consideration of Government. The supply of these bulls to Colonization Co-operative Societies is also under their consideration. The Government are sanctioning interest-free loans to members of Milk Supply Unions for the purchase of milch animals. During the year 1947–48, the Government have placed a sum of Rs. 4·30 lakhs at the disposal of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for this purpose.

A three-year plan for the development of urban milk supply drawn up by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been recommended by Government to the Government of India. The scheme provides for wide expansion of Co-operative Milk Supply Organizations with adequate provision for technical, administrative and supervising staff.

There is a proposal to organize a Milk Supply Union at Ambur in the North Arcot district with six Feeder Societies around the town to provide employment to ex-tappers. It is proposed to sanction a subsidy at the rate of Rs. 100 per mensem to each of the six Feeder Societies for a period of six months and to sanction the free services of a Co-operative Senior Inspector to attend to the work of the union for a period of six months. Such provision of work for ex-tappers, if successful, can be extended to other prohibition areas also and will help to relieve not only unemployment but milk shortage also.

Cottage Industries.

Government are considering the constitution of Cottage Industries Committees on the lines of the Regional Promotional Agencies recommended by the Co-operative Planning Committee and supported by the Conference of the Registrars of Co-operative Societies. Such Committees are intended to direct the planning, organization and development of co-operative societies for cottage industries. They will administer funds given to them by well-established co-operative institutions and Government, employ instructors, assist in securing raw materials and in marketing the finished goods. Such cottage industries as are now carried on a large scale (e.g., leather goods manufacture, coir goods manufacture, basket-making and mat-weaving, manufacture of pile carpet and woollen blankets, metal-ware manufacture, blacksmithy, carpentry, hand-spinning and weaving and ceramics) will be patronized by this Committee by setting up co-operative organizations in suitable centres. It is expected that about 100 new co-operative societies for cottage industries can be started every year helped by Government with suitable equipment and maintenance grants. Government will render further help by providing facilities for procuring raw materials like bamboos for basket-making and Kora grass for mat-making. The subject of re-allocation of work relating to Cottage Industries between the Co-operative and Industries departments is actively under their consideration.

Weavers' Co-operative Societies.

In December last, Government enunciated their policy of bringing in all the cotton handlooms in the Province into the co-operative fold on the lines indicated by the Provincial Yarn Advisory Committee, which recommended the organization of new Weavers' Co-operative Societies and the expansion of the existing ones. A special staff was also sanctioned for the purpose with the result that by the end of May 1947, the number of Weavers' Co-operative Societies rose from 344 to 673 and the number of looms under their control rose from 42,399 to 83,967. Government are also considering whether it will not be admissible to deny supplies of yarn to weavers who do not join Weavers' Co-operative Societies before a prescribed date. It is expected that such a course will eliminate the blackmarketing of yarn by master-weavers and yarn dealers and preserve for the actual weavers not only more yarn but also the fruits of their labour. This proposal to induce weavers to join co-operative societies is in accordance with the recommendation of the Co-operative Planning Committee which was endorsed by the Fifteenth Conference of Registrars, viz., that unless some manner of insistence is introduced in certain kinds of activities, it is likely that what is generally admitted to be essential for economic progress will not be attained. According to the present orders, a weaver who joins a Weavers' Co-operative Society gets 20 per cent more yarn than he would get if he was not in a co-operative society. This must naturally be a strong motive force for weavers to join co-operative societies, provided that weavers are really anxious to turn the yarn into cloth and hand it over to the society for sale,

instead of selling the yarn in the black-market.

Co-operative Housing.

With a view to relieve the shortage of housing accommodation, the Government have launched a province-wide Co-operative Housing Scheme. A Co-operative House Construction Society has already been registered in the City. It is proposed to start similar societies in all urban areas where there is a shortage of housing accommodation With this object, the Government have directed the constitution of local committees in each municipality and major panchayat area where there is a shortage of housing accommodation to report on the availability of sites for starting Co-operative Housing Schemes. It is proposed to start a colony of 100 houses in each urban area. A Provincial Housing Committee has been constituted to consider the numerous problems confronting the provision of housing to relieve the shortage both in urban and rural areas. The Government have under their active consideration the following :—

(i) Reduction of the lending rate in Government loans to building societies from 4 to 3½ per cent ;

(ii) ways and means of speeding up land acquisition proceedings ;

(iii) the desirability of controlling values of building sites ;

(iv) the provision of adequate quantities of timber, iron, steel, cement and bricks on a priority basis for the schemes ; and

(v) the special concessions needed for poorer classes including labour, Government servants, etc.

Co-operative Marketing.

In order to promote the co-operative marketing of agricultural produce, the Government are considering a five-year plan to start a net work of marketing societies in the province. Such a plan, if put into execution, should be greatly beneficial to the agriculturist. Should the Government of India decide to fix maximum and minimum prices of agricultural produce in accordance with the recommendations of an All-India Committee and also to start a trading Corporation for this purpose, such a marketing organization can very well be the agent of this corporation in this province.

Land Mortgage Banks.

There has been an insistent demand from the public to reduce the lending rate. The last series of debentures was floated at 2¾ per cent. Government have permitted the Central Land Mortgage Bank to reduce the margin between the debenture rate and the ultimate borrowing rate from 3 per cent to 2¼ per cent. There has been a steadily increasing demand for land mortgage loans and the loans for permanent improvement of lands is persistently on the rise. The Central Land Mortgage Bank, pending a review of all conditions, has fixed the lending rate to the ultimate borrower at 5¼ per cent. If conditions in the money market improve, it will be possible to reduce the rate to 5 per cent. The present lending rate is easily the lowest in the whole of India. The Government are continuing to meet 50 per cent of the cost of Co-operative Sub-Registrars deputed for Land Mortgage Banks' work.

Miscellaneous.

The public are aware of the valuable service rendered by co-operative stores during the war and thereafter in schemes for food procurment and distribution in the province. With the gradual removal of controls and State regulations, these societies may have to face competition from normal trade channels and one of the measures suggested for the stabilization of the storel societies is the formation of a Provincia Co-operative Wholesale Trading Society. The District Co-operative Wholesale Stores do not have proper facilities for the purchase of agricultural commodities like grams, pulses and consumer goods, etc., which are imported either from other provinces or States or from abroad. As it will be uneconomical for each District Co-operative Central Stores to send its representative and make its purchases, it has been suggested that a provincial agency may be formed at Madras and that it may pool the indents of all District Co-operative Central Stores and bigger primaries and arrange for bulk purchases. All the District Co-operative Stores, the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society and a few of the bigger primary stores will be the members of the provincial society. It is proposed to start the society at a very early date. When it begins to function, it will greatly facilitate the working of District Co-operative Central Stores and generally promote the consumers' co-operative movement in the province. It will function more or less as a Co-operative Whoesale Stores for the Madras Province.

The Government have sanctioned a temporary loan of Rs. 2 crores bearing interest at 2¾ per cent to the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank for disbursement as loans to the District Co-operative Central Banks for financing procurement operations undertaken by co-operative institutions. The loan is repayable before 30th September 1947.

The Government have sanctioned special staff for the organization of jaggery manufacturing societies for the benefit of ex-toddy tappers thrown out of employment in Prohibition districts.

Sound Education the *Sine Qua Non* of Democracy

Education Minister's appeal to youth to tackle illiteracy

[*Inaugurating the second meeting of the Provincial Advisory Board of Education, the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar, Minister for Education, stressed the need to re-orientate our educational system. The following are extracts from the opening speech.*]

"We are living in momentous times. Democracy is being ushered into this country and the revolutionary changes that we have to make in our political institutions to meet the coming situation are immense. But these alone will not succeed in laying permanent foundations for our future. Unless they are followed up by the generality of the people, with understanding and sympathy, the great institutions that we may set up to-day may crumble down tomorrow. Therefore, it is higly essential that our educational system should also keep pace with the times and reorganize itself to fulfil its new function.

Adult Education

"As a first step, a scheme for adult education should be chalked out. Adult education can be of various kinds and through various methods. It may extend from mere literacy to the highest education and it is necessary that we should organize ourselves in all these aspects as soon as possible so that the common man and woman will have the background and ability to make judgments on momentous issues. The Library Movement has been one of the greatest agencies of adult education and it is for that reason that the Government have come forward with proposal of a draft Library Bill. The library should become the centre of all enlightened activity. It should not be merely a place where books are stocked and given to those who care for them. It must be a place of lively interest where the common man may go in for guidance whenever he is in difficulty and where study classes must be held not only in books on Ethics or Literature but also in the various sciences which are so useful to man to-day and the knowledge of which is so essential to us in our everyday life. It is the intention of the Government that a net-work of libraries should be established throughout the Province with central libraries in each district town and a big library in the city. It is also contemplated that these libraries will be able to store some of the most valuable books and lend them in turn to the taluk and other libraries. Through this method, the Government hope that thousands of young men and women, who have not had college education, will be able to equip themselves in a high degree in those subjects in which they are interested.

Health of School Children

"The health of the school children has been a matter of anxious interest for all educationists. Ill-health has been a source of colossal wastage of human material. To prevent this wastage or at least to minimuze it a scheme for medical inspection of schools has been framed. The School Medical Service may not be started throughout the Province all at once; it is the intention of the Government to start it in every district in certain areas and gradually extend it throughout the districts.

Elementary Education

"The problems of elementary education are immense. There are two aspects of this problem, one is extensive and the other is intensive. It has been stipulated that there are about 7 million school-going children in the Province. Of these, nearly half the number has been provided accommodation in schools. We still have got the tremendous task of providing accommodation for the rest. It is interesting to see how much money we had been spending in 1939–40 on elementary education and how much money we are spending in 1947–48. The total number of schools in 1939–40 was 40,796 with 2,997,498 children. In the following years, many of the uneconomic schools were eliminated and in the year 1945–46 there were 35,929 schools with 3,244,261 children. In 1945–46, compulsion was introduced in selected villages in each district and this was followed up in 1946–47 and 1947–48 with the result that roughly 500,000 more children have been brought into school. The number of children for whom increased accommodation has been given in 1947–48 is roughly 16 per cent more than in 1939–40. But when you compare the expenditure between 1939–40, we find a colossal difference. The expenditure by Government in 1939–40 for elementary education was 173 lakhs, but the expenditure in 1947–48 is expected to be 413 lakhs, i.e., an increase of nearly 140 per cent. This is in addition to the increase of expenditure on elementary education by local bodies from 65 lakhs to 138 lakhs in the same period. This is accounted for by the increased salaries as well as dearness allowances that have been given to the teachers in elementary schools. From this account of expenditure, we can have an idea as to what will be the immense amount that will be necessary to provide to bring about compulsory elementary education throughout the Province.

"It is the intention of the Government that a system of full, free and compulsory elementary education should be provided in the Province within a reasonable period, i.e., about 10 years. If we are going to depend upon raising funds by taxation alone, it may well-nigh seem to be an impossible task, but fortunately what we want is not money but service. If our young men and graduates can come forward to give one year of their service, then, extension of education will become more easily possible. I hope before long it will be possible for Government to put before the people a sound scheme for compulsory elementary education (of course of the basic type) within the shortest possible time.

"Many committees on education and many educationists have reported that our elementary schools are not running as well as they should. In equipment and building, in the qualification of the teachers and the quality and output of the work, in all these items, we are said to be lacking. It is absolutely necessary that our school should work with maximum efficiency; for, after all, every child will become efficient only in so far as he learns the habit of doing things efficiently while he is a child at school or at home. Inefficient education is a national calamity. By education, I mean, not only the three R's but that attitude of mind which gives strength to the individual and zest to do things well. This, apart from other things, is the most salient aspect of any education.

Secondary School and Colleges

"One other matter I would like to put before you before closing and this relates to schools and colleges. The number of pupils seeking admission in our schools and colleges is becoming more numerous everyday. The number of secondary schools in the year 1939–40 was 661 with 245,084 students. The number of secondary schools in the year 1945–46 was 855 with 404,938 students. In 1946–47, the department has given recognition to 142 secondary schools and in the current year, recognition has been given for the opening of 87 secondary schools and for the opening of fresh divisions in existing schools. In the colleges also, this problem has to be faced. In 1942–43, the number of seats available for admission in the Madras University was 5,640. This has gradually increased in the following years and due to the opening of a fourth batch in the science classes, the Madras University alone was able to permit the admission of 10,175 students in 1946–47. In the current year, they have examined the question and have sanctioned the admission of students. With the growing numbers, the personal touch that is so very essential in every educational institution has suffered, and so here also we have problems not only of expansion but also of intensifying the proper spirit that must exist in our schools and colleges. It is essential in our educational institutions that there must be a broad spirit of tolerance and sympathy for all communities and creeds. This can be best done by admitting representatives of all the communities in the institutions as well as in their staff."

In conclusion, the Hon'ble the Minister solicited the advice and guidance of the members of the board in tackling the various educational problems that face the Province.

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of June

Procurement.

The following statements show the quantities of foodgrains locally procured in the districts and those received from sources outside the province :—

(a) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 31st May 1947*—

	TONS.	
Paddy.	68,980	Together equivalent of 76,183 tons in terms of rice.
Rice ..	27,343	
Millets.	5,490	

(b) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 15th June 1947* —

	TONS.	
Rice ..	2,559	(This includes 364 tons of broken rice imported from Sind and counted against the overseas allotment.)
Millets.	172	
Wheat and wheat products.	Nil.	

Pulses—

	TONS.
Black-gram.	518
Redgram.	20
Green-gram.	688
Bengal-gram.	1,946
Total ..	3,172

(c) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th June 1947*—

	TONS.
Rice ..	Nil.
Millets.	1,300
Wheat and wheat products.	Nil.

Stock and supply—Principal foodgrains.

Rice.—Procurement during the fortnight ending 12th June 1947 was only 60,347 tons which is about 10,000 tons less than procurement in the previous fortnight, but is rather above the level of procurement throughout April and the early part of May. The fall in procurement has been mainly in the Circars. Towards the end of the fortnight, railway movement from the Circars became difficult but the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities has intervened, and it is hoped that there will be some improvement. The stock of rice on 12th June 1947 was 243,761 tons as against 240,289 tons on 29th May 1947 but unless procurement improves stocks will fall by the end of the next fortnight and will be at a very dangerous low level. The rice stock position continues to be worst in Coimbatore and Malabar districts. Rice stocks have improved slightly in Coimbatore, but that district still has less than two weeks' supplies. Malabar now has over 19,000 tons in stock, i.e., under three weeks' supplies. In addition to the allotments from the Circars, special quotas amounting to 9,000 tons of rice have been allotted to Malabar from various districts. Provided the quotas of 8,000 tons of rice and 3,000 tons of broken rice from Sind materialize, and provided good progress is made in despatches from the surplus districts, Malabar should get through to its harvest in September without any breakdown in rationing. The prospects in the province as a whole are however less satisfactory and it is feared that unless procurement can be substantially improved or unless unexpected additional quotas are received from outside the province, a crisis will occur in August.

Millets.—The stock of millets continues to increase, being 24,896 tons on 12th June 1947 as compared with 23,203 tons on 29th May 1947. The province thus has about two months' supplies. Shipments of 4,400 tons of American milo from Colombo is held up owing to the dock strike in that port. The June allotment of 8,000 tons of American milo is expected but there is no definite news regarding its arrival. The allotment of 3,000 tons of Australian sorghum meal will not be received until mid-July at the earliest. An additional 703 tons of jowar has been allotted from Orissa, and it is hoped to move the bulk of the small quotas of millets from Orissa by the end of July. Coimbatore, which has about two weeks' stocks of millets in hand, has lower stocks than any other district.

Maize.—The stock of maize has fallen to 3,006 tons on 12th June 1947 which represents about 1½ months' supplies. Quotas of rather less than 1,000 tons of maize have been offered for supply from Mysore and will be accepted provided the quality is satisfactory. The off-take of maize is still considerably greater in Coimbatore than in other districts.

Wheat and wheat products.—The stocks of wheat and wheat products on 12th June 1947 were 3,094 tons and 1,278 tons respectively. Although small inter-district transfers are being carried out, it is feared that some districts will run out of flour by the middle of July. Although the Regional Food Commissioner has asked the Government of India to supply 1,000 tons of flour to this province as soon as possible, no imports of wheat and wheat products are expected until August.

Pulses.—Imports of Bengalgram continue at a satisfactory rate. Out of the 55,000 tons in 1946–47 Rabi Plan quota, only a balance of about 5,000 tons remain to be imported. The 1947–48 Rabi Plan Bengalgram quotas from Punjab and Sind have begun to move. Small quantities of redgram, blackgram and greengram were received during the fortnight. A quota of 4,000 tons has now been allotted from United Provinces to this province. This will temporarily relieve the unsatisfactory redgram stock position which exists throughout the province. The stock position of the other major pulses is generally satisfactory.

Rationing.

The instructions regarding the issue of wheat and wheat products to habitual consumers and those who require them on medical grounds, have since been made applicable to inmates of jails also.

Subsidiary Foodstuffs.

Sugar.—Quotas to all districts (except Madras) have been increased by 25 per cent and those to Railways by 10 per cent with effect from 1st June 1947. A revised Zonal Scheme for the distribution of sugar during the current year has also been issued.

Salt.—Supply in Nellore was reported to be inadequate.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Firewood was reported to be inadequate in parts of Guntur and Ramnad districts and in Bezwada and Coimbatore towns.

Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Vizagapatam, West Godavari and the Nilgiris.

How do we stand for Foodgrains in Madras?

(*By the Commissioner of Civil Supplies*)

I think perhaps that the best way of showing you how we stand for foodgrains for the next five months, is to set out the position in the form of a 'Balance Sheet' or 'Statement of Accounts,' the sort of document which many of you receive from your bankers every month—and then explain the figures to you.

Here then is my Balance Sheet for *Rice*:

	TONS.
Stock on 1st June 1947 ..	241,216
Expected imports from 1st June to 31st October 1947	50,000
Expected procurement from 1st June to 31st October 1947 ..	699,300
Debit balance	109,484
Total ..	1,100,000
Expected consumption from 1st June to 31st October 1947 ..	850,000
Buffer stock required on 31st October 1947 ..	250,000
Total ..	1,100,000

Figures explained

The *stock figure* is a definitely known figure consolidated from the figures given by the Collectors of all districts, but it is important to realize that it is not a stock held all in one place which we can draw upon and from which we can send out supplies to any district which may be short. It is the aggregate of the stocks held in 24 different districts. In one district, there may be one week's stock, in another two weeks' and in the third perhaps three weeks' or a month's stock. It is our 'working capital' and it is because it is so small as compared with last year when the stock on 1st June 1946 was 442,000 tons, that it is so difficult this year to supply the heavily deficit districts such as Malabar, Coimbatore and Madras city. Malabar, for instance, requires 29,000 tons a month to satisfy its requirements, Coimbatore 11,000 tons and Madras City 12,000 tons. Obviously it is not possible to take away, say, one week's stock from a district which only has two weeks' stock, or two weeks' stock from a district which has only three weeks' stock, and it is therefore only possible to feed these heavily deficit districts by procuring and exporting to them from the heavily surplus districts—the four Circar districts, Tanjore, and to a less extent, Nellore and South Arcot.

The *import figure* of 50,000 tons is the balance still to be received under the Government of India's basic plan for the Kharif Year, November 1946 to October 1947. It is not quite certain that the whole of this amount will be received before 31st October 1947, but we do know that we cannot expect to receive anything over and above that amount. It is therefore a maximum. Most of this quantity of 50,000 tons will come into Vizagapatam district—an otherwise deficit district—from Orissa.

The *procurement figure* of 699,300 tons is 80 per cent of the balance of the target figure not yet procured. Our target figure for the whole year was 1,787,600 tons. Up to the end of May 913,479 tons had been procured. The balance to be procured is therefore 874,121 tons. Eighty per cent of 874,121 is 699,300. Judging by the present rate of procurement and in consideration of the fact that the months of August, September and October are always difficult months to procure, because the main crop has been harvested many months before, it is improbable that we shall procure more than 80 per cent of the balance of the target figure. It will in fact be very difficult to reach even that figure.

The *consumption figure* is based on the maintenance of a 10 oz. ration from June to October and our experience of the amount consumed during those months in the two previous years.

The *buffer stock* of 250,000 tons is the minimum required to maintain rationing during the months of November and December, since the main crop is not ready for procurement until the following January and February. Like the stock figure on 1st June 1947 it represents, not a stock held all in one place, but the aggregate of the stocks held in 24 different districts.

These figures show a *debit balance* or *deficit* of 109,484 tons. They also indicate that our present stock being so low, procurement in the very difficult months of August, September and October must keep pace with the requirements each month or rationing will break down somewhere about the middle of August.

How to bridge the gap?

How then can this deficit be made up? How can the gap of over one lakh of tons between requirements and supply be bridged? The bridging of the gap must be tackled from both ends—by reducing consumption at one end and by intensifying procurement at the other. At the one end there must be a much more rigorous enforcement of the rationing regulations. Some producers who have enough for their requirements for the next few months are hoarding their stocks and drawing rice from the ration shops; some people on a visit to a town get temporary ration cards for a month or two but stay only for a day or two, and their relations draw extra rations on these cards; others make additions to their families (on ration cards) without going through the usual formalities necessary to produce children. All these acts are anti-social and in the present circumstances of acute shortage, criminal. A thorough check is being made of all ration cards by the rationing authorities. But it is unlikely, however thoroughly the check is made, that by this means the consumption figure can be reduced by more than a few thousand tons. The only other way to reduce consumption is to reduce the rice ration to 8 oz. This drastic measure I personally consider, should be the last resort. It means condemning many million of non-producer rice eaters to a semi-starvation diet, since this year we have no wheat or, what was called last year, 'unfamiliar foodgrains,' to make up the diet to 10 or 12 oz. And it is to be observed that even a reduction to 8 oz. would not bridge the *whole* gap.

What then can be done at the other end of the gap? Owing to the all-India food position there is no hope of increasing the import figure. Everything therefore depends on intensifying procurement.

The inference to be drawn from the production figures of last year and this year is that there should be no great difficulty in procuring 100 per cent of the target figure. Last year, this province produced 4,241,000 tons of rice and we procured a little over 13 lakhs of tons. This year our estimated figure of production is 4,795,000 tons and it should not therefore be impossible or even difficult to procure out of this 1,787,000 tons. There are

however several reasons why procurement has been more difficult this year than last year—(1) Last year the producer was squeezed to the maximum extent and had very little carry-over left with him. Naturally he is reluctant to be left in the same position this year, especially before he knows what the coming monsoon will be like. (2) Bonuses were given twice last year—in June and July and again in September and November. The producer is naturally inclined to withhold his stocks in the hopes that Government will give him a similar bonus at the end of this year. (3) The procurable surplus, which should be larger than last year, if our production figure is anything like correct, is to be found mainly not in the heavily surplus delta areas but in a large number of small holdings, especially under tanks where, though the aggregate may be large, the individual surplus is small and difficult to procure. (4) The constitution of Village Committees, of Producer-*cum*-Consumer Co-operative Societies in the Circars and of some inefficient co-operative societies in some other districts threw the procurement machinery of last year out of gear. It has not been easy to get it into working order again.

The above reasons resulted in poor procurement during the most favourable procurement months of March, April and May and, as a result, I am afraid that much of the surplus is not now available for procurement. Buyers had plenty of money to spend and the ryots therefore found no difficulty in selling their paddy and rice at attractive black-market prices before the procuring agents there got hold of it. But even so, there should still be sufficient procurable surplus to enable us to reach the target figure. An intensive procurement drive is being made in order to get this surplus, but it will not succeed unless all law-abiding citizens co-operate. Everything depends on it. If it succeeds we should just get through on a 10 oz. ration. If it fails, rationing will break down in the middle of August. If the target figure for procurement is reached, a far more attractive balance sheet can be presented to the public as below :—

	TONS.
Stock on 1st June 1947 ..	241,216
Expected imports from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	50,000
Expected procurement from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	874,121
Total ..	1,165,337

	TONS.
Expected consumption from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	850,000
Buffer stock required on 31st October 1947.	250,000
Credit Balance	65,337
Total ..	1,165,337

Surely it is the duty of every one to see that the procurement drive of the next few months does *not* fail.

Millets

It is more difficult to give an accurate balance sheet for millets than it is for rice, because figures of procurement of millets are difficult to predict and because we have no very definite figures of probable imports during the next five months. What can be said for certain is that the millet crop in the Province is not nearly so good as it was expected to be earlier in the year owing mainly to the heavy rains in December last year, and that though there should be no great difficulty in feeding the regular millet-eaters and mixed-diet-eaters on a 10 oz. ration for the next five months there is not likely to be anything left over to supplement the diet of the rice-eater.

A tentative balance sheet for millets is given below :—

	TONS.
Stock on 1st June 1947 ..	24,000
Expected imports from 1st June to 31st October 1947	33,200
Expected procurement from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	30,000
Debit balance	2,800
Total ..	90,000

Expected consumption from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	80,000
Buffer stock required on 31st October 1947.	10,000
Total ..	90,000

It should not be difficult to wipe out this small deficit of 2,800 tons, as shown by these figures, by better procurement during the next five months. The estimated procurement figure from 1st June to 31st October 1947 has been fixed very low and it should be possible to increase it, but millet procurement is always difficult because the millet grower is generally a poor man who wants, and in most cases has, to keep all he grows for his own consumption.

Stock of Wheat

The stock of *wheat* in the province on 5th June 1947 was only 3,225 tons. The issue of wheat has had to be limited to habitual wheat-eaters, and, if it is so limited, the normal consumption is about 1,500 tons a month. Our present stocks therefore will last for only about 2 months.

The stock of *wheat flour* or *maida* on 5th June 1947 was only 1,314 tons. By restricting its issue to persons who are normal consumers of wheat products and bread, by reducing supplies of maida to confectionaries, vermicelli manufacturers and hotels to the absolute minimum, it has been possible to reduce the consumption to about 700 tons a month. Our present stock of maida will therefore not last for more than another 1½ months.

These figures are given to show that it is quite impossible to make up the rice or millet eater's diet with any wheat as it was found possible to do last year.

The position as set out above shows that, unless the producer delivers to the Government 100 per cent of his surplus paddy and millets and unless the procurement drive which is now being undertaken is a success, there will be a very serious shortage of foodgrains in the Province in a very short time and rationing on a 10 oz. ration basis will break down somewhere about the middle of August. It is the plain duty of every one to do all in his power to prevent this happening by co-operating whole-heartedly with the efforts which are being made by the staff of the Civil Supplies Department both to tighten up rationing and to intensify procurement. The Officers of the Civil Supplies Department are doing a difficult and unpopular job. There is hardly one of them who would not prefer to be doing some other kind of work. There may be a few black-sheep but as a whole I am perfectly certain that they are doing a very unpopular job honestly and courageously. They deserve the support of the public. If they do not get it, their efforts must fail and something like starvation stares us in the face.

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